

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي.

U.S. has no comment on reported accord

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States withheld comment Wednesday on a reported agreement with Israel that could clear the way for early Middle East peace talks. A State Department official said the first official comment would probably come from Secretary of State James Baker, now in Kuala Lumpur in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). "That really has to come from Baker," the official said, when asked for reaction. "It's Baker who calls the shots on the peace process." A White House spokesman also declined comment. Israel Radio said Wednesday the United States had agreed with Israel to exclude Palestinians from Arab Jerusalem in the first stage of negotiations. Israel opposes the inclusion of Palestinians from Arab Jerusalem, viewed by Palestinians as the capital of the state they would like to create. Defence Minister Moshe Arens told reporters late Tuesday that he expected the United States to accept Israel's position on barring Palestinians from Arab Jerusalem from a Palestinian delegation. "I have no doubt. I believe there is no difference of opinion between the Americans and us on this matter," he said.

Moscow urges Israel not to delay talks

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Foreign Ministry said Wednesday it hoped Israel would not delay the composition of a Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace conference. Ministry spokesman Vitaly Churkin told a news conference that talks aimed at reaching agreement on a conference had reached a "decisive phase." He praised Arab governments for agreeing to end the boycott of the Jewish state in exchange for guarantees for an end to new Jewish settlements in the Israeli-occupied territories and said the matter was now up to Israel. Israeli leaders have raised issues about the representation of the Palestinians and this issue has to be solved. But I only hope this problem will not be part of an attempt to drag out the essence of the question. We must get an answer to the question although certain aspects of staging the conference are yet to be worked out. Mr. Churkin also said constant U.S.-Soviet contacts had helped prepare the framework as had efforts by both Washington and Moscow to persuade Middle East participants to go to the conference table.

Volume 16 Number 4758

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY JULY 25-26 1991, MUHAR RAM 13-14, 1412

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Kuwait 'supports Palestinian cause'

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait has said it would support the Palestinian cause despite the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) backing for Iraq during its occupation of the emirate. "There are main Arab issues which are in reality our concerns on top of which is the Palestinian cause which is Kuwait's cause," Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah told Sawt Al Kuwait in an interview published Wednesday. He dismissed suggestions that Kuwait was considering cutting off relations with Arab countries sympathetic to Iraq during the Gulf crisis. Kuwait has laid off thousands of Palestinian workers largely for the PLO support for Iraq during its seven-month occupation of the emirate. Palestinians in Kuwait have complained of police harassment since the U.S.-led allies liberated the emirate in February. The community, which numbered 400,000 before the invasion, has dwindled to around 170,000.

Iranian towns shaken by tremor

NICOSIA (AP) — A strong earthquake shook the towns of Mahabad and Piranshahr in Iran's west Azerbaijan province Wednesday, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported. The agency said the quake, measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale, struck at 2:17 p.m. (9:47 GMT). There were no reports on damage or casualties, IRNA said. It added that the tremor was the fourth this month in Piranshahr.

OPEC June output 23 million bpd

LONDON (R) — A surge in Saudi oil production at the end of June pushed OPEC's output last month to 23.01 million barrels per day, the highest since March, a revised Reuters survey of industry officials and analysts shows. "Total OPEC output last month was 23.01 million (bpd) or just above," said one London-based executive with a major oil company. That view was shared by most of those canvassed. A survey taken on July 2 put June output at 22.56 million. Since then there has been an upward revision of 425,000 bpd in estimated Saudi output for the month. The latest estimates show Saudi Arabia produced around 8.25 million bpd in June, compared with 7.5 million in May.

Sudan says 10,000 rebels surrendered

KHARTOUM (AP) — More than 10,000 southern rebels have surrendered to Sudanese army garrisons in June and July, a government official said Wednesday. Omar Sulaiman Adam, assistant governor in the south-western region of Kordofan, was quoted by the Al Sudan Al Hadith newspaper as saying the rebel fighters, only a fraction of whom were armed, surrendered to army garrisons near their hometowns in the Nuba Mountains, 520 kilometres southwest of Khartoum. The newspaper quoted two wounded rebels as saying that they surrendered after their supply lines with their headquarters in Ethiopia were cut and their camps in the south were destroyed by government forces.

IMF head due in Algiers

ALGIERS (R) — The head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is due in Algiers shortly to discuss ways of helping Algeria avoid rescheduling some of its \$24 billion debt, official sources said Wednesday. Prime Minister Sidahmed Ghazali told parliament recently that he had invited Michel Camdessus for talks to help the government over a "difficult stage" with its debt. The government is concerned about repayment of its debts, estimated by the Algerian authorities at \$24 billion and by the World Bank at \$29 billion. Up to 75 per cent of oil income is being spent on debt servicing, said Mr. Ghazali. He said that although this is not too much for an oil-exporting country, the structure of the debt is "disastrous" as much of it is short-term over three or four years.

Israel optimistic over peace talks; Arabs seek flexibility

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAELI VOICED optimism Wednesday about moves towards Arab-Israel peace talks but Egypt and Syria said the Jewish state needed to be more flexible. Palestinian representation at the talks appeared to be the main hurdle to a Middle East peace conference.

An Israeli government official, who asked not to be named, said: "I don't say that everything has been resolved but we are optimistic and I think we are about to have a peace conference."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said he thought the talks could begin within two months once problems over who should represent the Palestinians were resolved.

The same problem sabotaged U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's efforts to promote talks last year after Mr. Shamir rejected Palestinians from Arab Jerusalem as negotiating partners.

But Israeli ministers said they believed Israel and Washington had reached an "understanding" over Palestinian representation.

Arafat: Rights ignored

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said the negotiations ignored Palestinian rights. He said Mr. Baker and Israel had agreed the negotiations would exclude Palestinians from Arab Jerusalem.

Israel in 1980 "annexed" Arab Jerusalem and declared it part of its "undivided capital."

The U.S. peace plan "ignores the Palestinian people's national rights and completely leaves out the question of Arab Jerusalem," Mr. Arafat said in a radio interview.

Radio Monte Carlo quoted Mr. Arafat as saying the plan would not allow Palestinians in the occupied territories to run their own affairs until two years after the start of peace talks.

"By then, 65 per cent of the West Bank and Gaza Strip will have been swallowed up by new settlements for Jewish immigrants who are expected to number three million by 1995. This is a disaster," he said.

Mr. Arafat said the PLO had called for a meeting of Arab states bordering Israel to discuss the Baker plan but nothing came of the call.

"We suggested frankly and clearly that at least we should have a meeting of the confrontation states," he said.

The London-based Arabic daily Al Hayat Wednesday quoted Palestinian sources in Tunis as saying the PLO was studying three U.S. options on Palestinian representation in peace talks.

The paper listed the options as: A separate Palestinian delegation from the occupied territories excluding Arab Jerusalem, a joint delegation with Jordan, or participation in a joint Arab delegation.

Mubarak hopes for flexibility

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said he hoped Israel would respond positively to the U.S. plan and "be more flexible."

"I pray to God that Mr. Shamir will respond positively to what Mr. Baker told him as well as" Syrian President Hafez Al Assad said.

"I am by nature optimistic," said Mr. Mubarak, speaking after talks with British Prime Minister John Major.

Mr. Mubarak, asked what Mr. Shamir should do now, replied: "Be much more flexible."

Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd told parliament the British government was also waiting for a positive response from Israel.

"The Israelis have within their grasp something for which... they have been aiming for 40 years, namely an opportunity to sit down and talk peace... negotiate their disputes with those of their Arab neighbours who are still at war with them," he said.

Mr. Hurd also reiterated Britain's call for Israel to stop building settlements in the occupied territories, calling them "a very considerable obstacle to peace."

He said he hoped a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation for the talks would be acceptable to the Israelis.

Syrian President Assad last week accepted compromise U.S. proposals aimed at bringing Israel

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Israelis demolish Gaza home

OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP (Agencies) — Israeli troops Wednesday demolished the home of one of three Palestinians wanted in connection with the 43-month-old uprising in the occupied territories.

Troops used bulldozers to flatten the family home of Yasser Zaunin, 24, Wednesday morning. Relatives of Nizar Al Akhras, 20, and Zarruk Aadal, 22, pulled down their homes Tuesday to prevent the bulldozers damaging neighbouring properties.

The demolitions left 27 people homeless.

As of July 1, the army said 348 houses of Palestinians suspected or convicted of violence in the uprising had been demolished in the occupied territories.

A spokesman for Betzelem, an Israeli human rights group, said Israel had demolished 411 houses and sealed off 274 others between the start of the uprising in December 1987 and July 15 this year.

The international community has repeatedly criticised Israel's use of collective punishment such as house demolitions, blanket curfews and extensive school closures in its fight against the revolt.

Palestinian sources said troops clashed with Palestinians who blocked roads and threw stones in Hebron in the West Bank and Gaza City.

Cameras for the international television agency Visnews said troops confiscated their film to stop them recording the Hebron clashes where,

they said, soldiers hit demonstrators with rifle butts.

Palestinian assailants burst into an Israeli hospital in the occupied West Bank and fatally wounded its administrator Wednesday.

A military official said Jenin government hospital chief Dr. Majid Abouji, 56, later died of his wounds at a hospital in Israel.

Troops clamped a curfew on Jenin and conducted searches for the assailants.

Palestinian sources said Dr. Abouji fled to Jordan a year ago after Palestinians accused him of collaboration. He returned to the West Bank only 15 days ago after the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) gave him a paper clearing him of the charges.

Israeli planes stage raids south of Beirut

NAAMEH, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli warplanes bombed Palestinian targets south of Beirut Wednesday.

The Israeli army said it bombed a boat off the Lebanese coast to prevent guerrilla attacks on pro-Israeli targets.

Witnesses quoted by Reuters said Israeli warplanes hit trenches used by Palestinian guerrillas on a hillside near Naameh, 11 kilometres south of Beirut.

Lebanese anti-aircraft guns fired at the planes but none was hit.

Witnesses told Reuters the trenches were used by Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — General Command (PFLP-GC). Rescue workers said there were no casualties.

The Israeli army said the boat was operated by the PFLP-GC and the raid was to prevent "a hostile attack."

It said the boat was hit and all planes returned safely.

The jets made repeated runs on their targets. Hillside were set ablaze by bombs and about 50 people ran for cover as the planes roared over the Mediterranean, witnesses said.

The Israeli command also said the boat belonged to the PFLP-GC.

The PFLP-GC, in a statement issued in Beirut, said: "The claim that a boat was attacked is baseless. We neither have boats nor bases in that area."

"The raid targeted our former bases and positions in Damour and Naameh," it said.

"No casualties were reported because the positions and bases had been evacuated in line with an agreement with the Lebanese government," the statement added.

The Voice of Lebanon and Voice of the People radios also backed the PFLP-GC claim that the targets hit were on shore.

"Smoke and dust is billowing from the stricken area," said the Voice of People. The other station just noted that the attack on Damour was the farthest north the Israeli planes have ranged since Lebanese army troops began in December implementing a civil war peace accord.

A PFLP-GC spokesman said the plans bombed positions.

Troops in the Naameh area said they had not seen any boat being attacked by the aircraft.

Wednesday's air strike was the 16th Israeli air raid into Lebanon this year.

Violence continues in Croatia

BELGRADE (R) — Fresh fighting flared between Croats and Serbs in Yugoslavia Wednesday, with four policemen badly wounded in several hours of clashes near the volatile Knin region in Croatia.

The policemen were hit by automatic weapons fire when Serbian gunmen ambushed their patrol car in the village of Plastovo near the Adriatic coast in southwest Croatia, police said.

Fighting between Serbs and Croats was also reported in the area around Slunj in central Croatia, where at least 30 mortar bombs were fired at a police station and in the area around Vinkovci in eastern Croatia where mortar rounds slammed into three houses.

A number of other attacks with automatic weapons and mortars were reported around Croatia during the night, but no casualty figures were given.

At least 36 Serbs and Croats have been killed in sectarian violence since last Friday and scores have died in fighting so far this year which threatens a full-scale civil war in the turbulent Balkan state.



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday meets with Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid (Petra photo)

King stresses need for collective Arab action, strong role for League

Abdul Meguid holds talks in Amman on Arab situation, Mideast peace efforts

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday voiced Jordan's absolute support for collective Arab action in a manner that would benefit all Arab countries and called on the Arab League to benefit from lessons related to the stage that preceded the Gulf crisis and the league's attitude vis-a-vis the crisis.

The King was speaking at a meeting with Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid at the Royal Court shortly after Dr. Abdul Meguid's arrival here on a two-day visit in the course of a tour of Arab countries.

King Hussein listened to Dr. Abdul Meguid's briefing on his mission and the outcome of his contacts with the heads of Arab countries in a bid to reactivate the Arab League's work, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

King Hussein spoke about "the issues and the challenges facing the Arab Nation at this critical stage of its history and presented his concept for collective Arab action that would benefit the Arab World," Petra said.

The meeting with the King followed Dr. Abdul Meguid's discussions with Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensour on the general Arab situation.

Dr. Ensour underlined the importance Jordan attaches to reactivating the Arab League's role and the need for restoring Arab solidarity, which suffered as a result of the Gulf crisis, Petra said.

The foreign minister stressed the need for an effective Arab League role in view of the current developments in the Arab World.

He discussed with the Arab League's chief current efforts to establish peace and inter-Arab consultations to achieve that end.

The minister also stressed the need for the Arabs to help end the sufferings of the Iraqi people resulting from the continued sanctions imposed on Iraq. He voiced Jordan's appreciation of Dr. Abdul Meguid's current efforts to end the ordeal of the Jordanian-Palestinian community in Kuwait, Petra said.

Following the meeting Dr. Ensour told Radio Jordan that Dr. Abdul Meguid will discuss coordination among Arab states with regard to the peace process, stressing the importance of the Arab League's role in this matter.

In reply to a question about prospects for a meeting grouping Jordan, Syria, Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to discuss Palestinian representation in peace talks, Dr. Ensour said that the issue concerns the PLO alone and no Arab country has the right to interfere and name the members of the Palestinian delegation. But, he said, such a meeting would be of paramount importance to coordinate the stands of the four parties, which are in direct confrontation with Israel.

Asked to comment on the Israeli position vis-a-vis the peace efforts, he said: "Israel has always proved to be intransigent and intent on obstructing and aborting peace efforts ever since the end of 1967 war. It has always been stalling for time and it is not surprising to see the Jewish state adopting the same policy again."

In a statement upon his arrival here, Dr. Abdul Meguid said that his talks here "will deal with the latest developments in the region

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U.N. nuclear inspection team to return to Iraq today

VIENNA (Agencies) — U.N. nuclear inspectors will set out for Iraq Thursday, on the day of a U.S. deadline to Baghdad to disclose full details of any nuclear weapons programme or face the threat of attack.

A spokesman for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said the 20-strong team of experts would leave from IAEA headquarters in Vienna and from other capitals to assemble in Bahrain before moving on to Baghdad.

The spokesman could not say when the team, led by American IAEA expert David Kay, would arrive in Iraq but said inspectors planned to spend two weeks there on the fourth such mission since May.

The departure for Iraq will coincide with a July 25 deadline — reinforced by a U.S. threat to attack — that the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council have set Baghdad to come clean on its nuclear secrets.

"The team has a dual purpose. One purpose is to search for more evidence of nuclear programmes and the other is to evaluate and assess what to do about facilities that have already been inspected," the IAEA spokesman said.

The U.S. general who directed the air war against Iraq said Wednesday it would take at least several days of bombing raids to destroy Baghdad's remaining nuclear capability if the allies decided to use force.

"To destroy everything would take a sustained air campaign of several days at least," Air Force Lieutenant General Charles Horner said.

Whether it would take one day, two days, 10 days or a hundred days would depend on what you want done," Gen. Horner told reporters.

But he refused to discuss specific potential targets or predict what decision might be made by President George Bush and allied leaders if Iraq refuses to comply with the U.N. order to uncover the country's full nuclear potential.

Although the United States says the U.N. directive provides all the authority necessary to attack Iraqi nuclear installations if the deadline is ignored, White House and Pentagon officials tried to discourage expectation of resumed warfare as the deadline approached.

They stressed that the deadline did not compel action and noted that U.N. inspectors were due to resume their checks of Iraqi facilities Saturday, two days after the deadline.

Anbari optimistic an oil sales

Iraq's U.N. Ambassador Abdul Amir Anbari said Tuesday he was optimistic his country might soon be allowed to export some of its U.N.-embargoed oil to buy food, medicines and other supplies.

"Yes indeed," he said just hours after Reuters obtained a copy of the Iraqi foreign minister's appeal to the Sanctions Committee.

"Like everyone else, I did listen and see the president of the United States in effect saying that they are looking for some means or mechanism in order enable the Iraqis to export some oil so that

they could import all their civilian needs — food and medicine and spare parts," he said.

President Bush, asked whether U.N. sanctions against Iraq might be eased to allow limited oil sales, told reporters Tuesday: "We'll see what we can do."

Mr. Anbari was speaking to reporters after holding another of his frequent private meetings with United States U.N. Ambassador Thomas Pickering in a secluded lounge near the general Assembly hall.

In accordance with past practice, neither would disclose the subject of their 15-minute encounter.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein Khudayer has sent an urgent new appeal to the Sanctions Committee asking permission to sell oil to purchase food and other essential goods and saying pre-embargo stocks had been totally depleted.

He said the "minimum requirements of the Iraqi people for imports of foodstuffs is estimated at some \$2.6 billion for 1991," in addition to some \$540 million worth of medical supplies.

Mr. Khudayer, who this month sought permission to export \$1.5 billion of oil, repeated that 6,000 children had already died as a result of shortages and disease and that 170,000 could die by the end of the year.

"The international community — and particularly the ... members of the Sanctions Committee — therefore bear a historic humanitarian responsibility to respond immediately to Iraq's requests for permission to export its oil products in order to avert a probable catastrophe," he said.

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Row in House over peace process

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A bitter row broke out in the Lower House of Parliament Wednesday over charges by some Islamist and Arab nationalist deputies that the government was bypassing the will of Parliament and sacrificing Palestinian rights and Palestine.

In response to the accusations, two cabinet ministers, known for their Arab nationalist ideology, pledged to resign from the cabinet if the proposed peace talks with Israel steered away from securing the rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to their homeland.

The row started after deputies coupled accusations against the government with a demand for a briefing from Prime Minister Taher Masi on the outcome of the recent talks held here by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

At the end of the Baker visit, earlier this week, Jordan said it was willing to attend a Middle East peace conference and would also lift the Arab boycott of Israel if the conditions were right.

As Mr. Baker ended his visit, the Lower House issued a statement rejecting all American initiatives for peace and denouncing the "double standard" of the U.S.

While a peace conference is acceptable to Parliament, it will not accept direct bilateral talks with Israel, the statement said.

During Wednesday's session, Islamist and some pan-Arab nationalist deputies cited this statement as the position of the legislative authority and questioned why the government was not giving it the due respect.

After almost half an hour of short but sharp comments by the deputies in the House, Mohammad Faris Tarawneh, minister of state for prime ministry affairs, accused the Muslim Brotherhood Movement of hypocrisy and pointed out that the movement had joined the government of Prime Minister Madad Badran which held two rounds of talks with Mr. Baker on the peace process since the end of the Gulf war.

Mr. Tarawneh addressed former Education Minister Abdullah Akaleh, a Muslim Brotherhood deputy who served in the Badran cabinet, and asked him why he was not so "excited" when he served with the former government.

"Does my respected colleague have more allegiance to this country or is he more nationalist than the members of this cabinet?" asked Mr. Tarawneh, a former Baathist Party activist.

Dr. Akaleh said that the fact that the government had won the confidence of the Lower House shows great contradictions with the House's stand which rejects peace talks with Israel.

"Some members of this government spent four decades fighting for the sake of Palestine while others were watching," Mr. Tarawneh countered. "Some members of this cabinet ran for parliamentary elections while their passports were held, while others have been speaking freely for the past 40 years," Mr. Tarawneh said.

The minister was recalling that the Brotherhood enjoyed wide government support since 1948 and the movement was officially tolerated while other political groups were banned since 1957.

He said that the government reserves the right to open dialogue with all the countries of the world to achieve its interests.

"None of you should dare outbid us with your slogans because we will never drop our claim to Palestine," Mr. Tarawneh told the Brotherhood members.

He said: "When this government enters any such talks you will see me submit my resignation."

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Jordan — respite and lifeline for Iraqis

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Thousands of Iraqis, some of them seeking a respite from their war-ravaged country and others looking for refuge in the West, are flooding into Jordan, thronging run-down hotels in downtown Amman to luxurious five-star establishments as well as apartments.

"Some of them are businessmen pursuing contacts, others are seeking refuge in Europe and the United States and still many are here for a short stay," said the receptionist at a JD 4-a-night downtown hotel, which, like dozens around it, has been doing a booming business since mid-May when the Iraqi government lifted travel restrictions.

An Iraqi taxi-driver who identified himself only as Haj Omar said most of his passengers on the Baghdad-Amman route were from the Iraqi middle class and lower middle class.

"They do not have much money, but still a week in Jordan is a much welcome prospect, away from the suffering in Iraq," he said.

"It will be an understatement to say things are bad in Iraq," said Haj Omar. "Prices are skyrocketing to the extent that it will be cheaper for someone to come to Amman and buy essential stuff, such as food and medicine," he said.

Haj Omar said he himself was making more money by buying food and other essentials in Amman and selling them in Iraq than plying his battered red and white Peugeot on the Amman-Baghdad route.

Food prices have soared — as much as 20 times in some cases — in the Iraqi market as a result of the international sanctions imposed against the country following its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Asked whether Iraqis were fleeing their country in fear of renewed use of force by the American-led coalition against Iraq following charges that Baghdad is still withholding full disclosure of its nuclear programme and facilities, Ibrahim Musli, a Baghdad grocer, said:

"We are Iraqis. We are not scared. Anyone who is scared of death is not an Arab or a Muslim."

"We have lived through eight years of war with Iran and then over seven months in tension before the Americans started the war," said Mr. Musli, as several other elderly Iraqis listening to the conversation nodded in unison. "The Americans have killed tens of thousands of Iraqis and destroyed our country. What more can they do? Kill a few thousands more?"

"They will get their retribution, sooner or later," added the grocer, who said he was

visiting Jordan to meet his daughter who lives in France.

Reports from Baghdad have spoken of heavy demand for American dollars and for vehicles for the overland trip to Amman in recent days. Thursday is the deadline set by the Security Council for Iraq to provide full details of its nuclear facilities.

U.S. administration officials have warned of military strikes against Iraq's nuclear facilities which survived attacks by the American-led coalition during the Gulf war, which ended Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

"We are happy to be in Amman for a week and do some shopping," said an Iraqi woman who gave her name as Fatima. "At prices as they are in Iraq, we cannot afford milk and medicine for our children," said the woman as she bottle-fed a three-year-old child in the worn-out hotel lobby.

The Iraqi government has set a ceiling of 600 Iraqi dinars per person as the amount he or she could take out of Iraq while travelling. Although it is equivalent to about \$1,900 at the official rate, foreign exchange is not released by the authorities, thus effectively bringing down the exchange value of the amount to less than \$100 outside Iraq.

"Border officials are lenient these days and most Iraqis bring out as much money as they can, but about 1,500 Iraqi

dinars is about the average," said Haj Omar, the taxi driver. At the exchange rate available in Jordan, 1,500 Iraqi dinars equal around JD 150.

Unofficial sources said about 50,000 Iraqis had entered Jordan after the lifting of travel restrictions in May. The sources could not give any estimate of how many Iraqis remained in Jordan.

Ahmad Saleh, an Egyptian employee at a downtown hotel, said the 30 beds laid out at two common halls at the establishment were always full, sometimes with two guests to a bed.

"Some of our guests take turns at sleeping since the number of beds is limited," said Mr. Saleh. "Some others spend nights at parks and other places nearby."

Managers of expensive hotels in Amman report around 80 to 90 per cent occupancy with half of them Iraqis. "Our clients are mostly businessmen or rich Iraqis who have family reunions here," said the senior sales executive at a five-star hotel.

Mr. Saleh said the average stay of an Iraqi family at his hotel was seven days. "Then they either move to apartments here or go back to Iraq," he said. "Others who are lucky to get a visa to Europe or elsewhere leave immediately."

Real estate agents affirm that there is a heavy demand

for apartments despite a steep rise in rentals. "Some clients even opt for garages and servants quarters to live," said Amer Hammoud, a broker.

"Many of those who came to my office appeared to have funds abroad, either their own bank accounts or help from family members living in Europe or the U.S.," Mr. Hammoud said.

Consular officials at Western embassies in Amman say they have been deluged with visa applications from Iraqi citizens. "We have to conduct individual personal interviews and carry out a thorough scanning process before granting anyone a visa," said a senior diplomat at a European embassy.

"We have the next 90 days fully occupied for interviews with Iraqi applicants for visa," he added.

Many Iraqis have also approached United Nations agencies seeking refuge abroad, but in most cases such applications are not accepted under the parameters specified for recognition and approval as political refugees.

Local and international relief agencies such as the Catholic Relief Services, Caritas, are extending limited help to needy Iraqi families.

Iraqi embassy sources said the mission here was also offering help, though limited to emergency cases and situations.

Congressmen urge Israel to peace talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Israel should seize the opportunity for direct talks with its Arab neighbours as the most realistic hope for peace in years, some of the Jewish state's staunchest friends in the U.S. congress say.

But in interviews this week, they cautioned that Israel should set the timetable and that it should not be subjected to undue pressure from Washington. Some worried whether Syria's new benign posture was genuine.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir "has got a very difficult time" in deciding how to respond to a proposal for a regional peace conference that would lead to bilateral talks, said Congressman Larry Smith.

Mr. Smith encouraged Israel to participate but cautioned against pressing it to accept a halt to settlement activity in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in return for an end to the Arab economic boycott of Israel. The boycott already is illegal under U.S. law, he said, and should not be linked with settlement activity.

Mr. Shamir has welcomed Syria's readiness to talk to Israel and said he thought both sides

were approaching the start of negotiations — hopefully within two months.

The U.S. formula for peace talks calls for a peace conference that would lead to direct negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbours, all of whom have endorsed the plan. The peace conference would be co-sponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union.

Israel has not yet responded officially to a U.S. plan.

Sen. Robert Kasten, another strong backer of Israel, said: "It's very important that whatever is done, be done by the parties themselves and that the United States or the United Nations doesn't impose a settlement."

Mr. Kasten noted that when Israel and Egypt came to the peace table, Israel voluntarily gave up the Sinai, which it had taken during its war with Egypt. The prospect of swapping land for peace could be a realistic one, he said, but only if it grows out of face-to-face talks between Israel and Arab countries.

Sen. Daniel Inouye said Presi-

dent George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker "have made an offer that (Mr. Shamir) cannot turn down."

"At this time when friendly relations are important, when one considers that the United States is the dominant power in Middle East politics, it is Israel's duty to do anything to cause distress to the American administration," Mr. Inouye said. "It would appear that they've been bludgeoned — with finesse."

One unspoken factor, Mr. Inouye said, is Israel's need for \$2 billion in loan guarantees to build housing and public works to absorb a new influx of Soviet Jews. The matter is expected to be part of congressional debate on a foreign aid bill in September.

Rep. Wayne Owens, said he believed Syrian President Hafez Al Assad "wants respectability and new friends," and that the Palestinians "are hungry and want to regain some of the momentum and respectability that (PLO Chairman) Yasser Arafat lost for them."

Turkey to get 80 U.S. fighters

WASHINGTON (R) — In another apparent step to support allies in the Gulf war against Iraq, the United States Tuesday announced the planned \$2.8 billion sale of F-16 fighters to Turkey.

The Defence Department said notification of Turkey's request for 80 advanced C and D models of the General Dynamics Corp. jets and 12 spare engines had been sent to Congress.

The sale, latest in a series of arms offers to U.S. friends in and near the Middle East, would become official in 30 days unless Congress vetoes it.

Turkey, a key supporter of the U.S.-led war against Baghdad, wanted the new models to replace older F-16s in its air force, the Pentagon said.

The White House informed Congress Friday it intended to sell 20 used U.S. air force F-16s to Morocco, 119 armoured vehicles to Oman and modernisation kits for Hawk anti-aircraft missiles to Egypt. They, too, were members of the military coalition against Iraq.

The announcement said the Turkish government ultimately intended to buy another 80 of the single-engine fighter jets, but did not say when that deal might be made.

"Turkey was certainly a key ally in the war and is a very important member of NATO. It needs the equipment and this could not be called controversial," said a senior Pentagon official, who asked not to be identified.

"Turkey plans to use these new aircraft to replace ageing and obsolete aircraft and to develop and maintain a capability to deter and counter regional threats," the Defence Department said.

It added that the sale would not harm U.S. efforts to encourage a negotiated settlement between Turkey and Greece over disputed land on the island of Cyprus.

The sale to Turkey was announced shortly after the Defence Department confirmed Tuesday that stress cracks had developed in the wings of some older F-16 fighter jets.

It will cost more than \$250 million to fix the 1,600 in use by the U.S. air force alone, the department said.

The F-16, one of the world's frontline attack jets, is also in use on or order by Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, Israel, Pakistan, Egypt, Venezuela, South Korea, Greece, Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraq returning Kuwaiti gold

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait says Iraq will return 3,216 gold bars in the next two weeks which it took from the central bank during its occupation of the emirate. Central Bank Governor Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah said in a statement published Wednesday the gold was worth between \$600 and \$700 million. "The gold bullion stolen was found in the Iraqi central bank and will be returned within the next two weeks," he said in the statement to Al Watan newspaper. Sheikh Salem said the central bank coffers were empty of foreign currency when Iraq invaded on Aug. 2. All they stole in cash was Kuwaiti dinars, declared worthless by the emirate when the government returned from exile and issued new notes. Iraq is obliged under U.N. resolutions to return all looted property. The United Nations is arranging the return from Baghdad of gold bullion and priceless museum pieces taken to Iraq at the start of the seven-month occupation.

Istanbul chamber of commerce hit

ISTANBUL (R) — A bomb caused damage to the Istanbul chamber of commerce during the night, but there were no casualties. Nobody has claimed responsibility for the explosion so far. The outlawed leftist group Dev-Sol (Revolutionary Left) has bombed scores of banks and other business targets mainly in Istanbul. The blast followed a series of bombings at the weekend in protest at a visit by U.S. President George Bush. Dev-Sol has stepped up attacks since the start of the Gulf crisis. It claimed the murders of two Americans and a score of bombings against western targets during the Gulf war.

Hassan II receives Maghreb ministers

RABAT (R) — King Hassan of Morocco received the foreign ministers of the five North African countries Tuesday after they wound up a two-day meeting of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), the official news agency MAP said. Officials gave no indication of the results of the meeting, which was convened to breathe new life into the AMU, an embryonic common market which has made little real progress since it was formed in February 1989. A Foreign Ministry source said there would be no official statement. He said no date had been set for the next ministerial meeting or for an AMU summit conference. Plans to create a free trade zone and common market and several integrated economic projects have been held up by domestic problems in member states, regional analysts said. AMU members Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia were due to hold their annual summit in Libya during the Gulf war but it was postponed indefinitely. Libya was due to hand over the rotating chairmanship to Mauritania this year. But because of domestic unrest Mauritania asked Morocco to take over instead.

Algerian opposition leaders stage fast

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's Islamic fundamentalist leader and his deputy staged a 24-hour hunger strike in prison Sunday in protest against a report that the government would consider selling an oilfield, their lawyer said. Lawyer Bachir Mechri told Reuters he and six other lawyers had visited Abbasi Madani and Ali Belhadj in prison since they were arrested three weeks ago on charges of armed conspiracy. Mr. Mechri quoted Mr. Madani as saying, "We reject such proposals from a provisional government. We are ready to die even for a handful of Algerian soil, all the more so for Hassi Messaoud (oilfield), a symbol of our country's independence." He said Mr. Madani suffered from an ulcer and vomited blood after the hunger strike. He was treated by a prison doctor. In a recent interview with a Belgian newspaper, Prime Minister Sidahmed Ghazali announced plans to sell a quarter of the Hassi Messaoud oilfield to foreign groups so that Algeria could obtain badly-needed foreign exchange. But last Thursday Mr. Ghazali said in Algiers his government did not have the right to sell Algeria's underground wealth which, he said, belonged to the nation. Instead, he said the government preferred to find a formula to sell oil in advance by granting production rights to foreign companies over a period between 15 and 20 years in return for between \$5 and \$6 billion.

Explosion kills 3 in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — Army crews worked Wednesday to clear away debris from an explosion that killed three U.S. soldiers a day earlier as they tried to remove ordnance near a military camp in Kuwait.

"They are still in the process of cleaning up out there," said an officer at the U.S. military's Joint Information Bureau (JIB) in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. He asked that his name not be used.

The army said in a statement issued Tuesday that the cause of the accident at the Doha camp west of Kuwait City had not been determined but that "we know it was not due to hostile action or sabotage."

An investigation was started immediately, army spokesmen said.

The JIB officer said families were being notified and that names of the victims would be released at the Pentagon.

The soldiers were clearing ammunition left from a fire and explosion that showered the Doha camp in shrapnel and shells on July 11 after a previous apparent accidental detonation, the army statement said.

While the soldiers were moving the ordnance, it detonated, said the statement.

Munitions experts here say that unexploded shells are particularly troublesome in Kuwait's desert climate because they tend to overheat and can "cook off," or explode spontaneously.

The deaths brought to 16 the number of U.S. troop fatalities since the end of the Gulf war in February. All were accidental, caused by traffic accidents, mines or explosions, said an army officer who asked not to be identified. Reporters have been barred from the Doha camp since the July 11 incident.

"Clearly it is extremely dangerous out there still," the officer said.

The July 11 explosion, believed to have been caused by an electrical short in a truck loaded with ammunition shells, injured 53 American and six British soldiers.

Mubarak: No peace without Palestinians from diaspora

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak says peace talks with Israel will fail unless Palestinians from outside the Israeli-occupied territories are included among Arab negotiators.

Who will represent Palestinians appears to be the main hurdle to clear before a Middle East peace conference can be convened under the sponsorship of the United States and the Soviet Union.

Mr. Mubarak's position voiced in an interview published Wednesday is opposite that of Yitzhak Shamir, Israel's premier. To block the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Mr. Shamir insists that only Palestinian residents of occupied Gaza and West Bank with no PLO affiliation be allowed to participate in any conference.

"We cannot ignore the Palesti-

nians whether outside or inside (the occupied territories)," Mr. Mubarak said.

"The problem with Israel is that it doesn't want the PLO to participate in any discussion or settlement. ... But we cannot find any solution without the Palestinians outside."

Mr. Mubarak, currently on a state visit to England, spoke in an Arabic-language interview taped last week by the British Broadcasting Corporation. Segments were broadcast Wednesday, and Egyptian newspapers published the interview's text.

He was interviewed before U.S. Secretary of State James Baker visited the region at the weekend and elicited commitments from Syria and other Arab countries to attend a conference. Israel has not responded, but Mr.

Shamir said Tuesday he hopes a conference can begin within two months.

Israel says the PLO is a "terrorist" group and refuses to negotiate with it. The Jewish state also rejects participation of delegates from Arab Jerusalem, which it contends would cast doubt on its "sovereignty" over the sector of the Holy City it "annexed" in 1967.

"The PLO's relations with Egypt, Syria and other Arab states have soured since they supported different sides in the Gulf war. Mr. Mubarak was at the forefront of Arab opposition to Iraq and Syria also sent troops to the anti-Iraq coalition."

Despite the disagreement, Mr. Mubarak has said repeatedly that Palestinians outside the occupied territories should be involved in

peace talks. His assertion that failure to involve them would block the peace process is new.

"It will lead to complications and other problems for Israel itself," the Egyptian president told the BBC. "If we want to bring about peace, it should be a complete and comprehensive peace and should be for all the parties including Israel."

Mr. Mubarak said the Palestinians should not have to pay for PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's "errors."

"If Mr. Yasser Arafat made a mistake, it doesn't mean all the Palestinians inside and outside were mistaken," he said. "The PLO has been feeling frustrated for the past 40 years because it hasn't found the solution to its cause."

British report: Kuwait 'hesitant' on human rights

LONDON (R) — A British parliamentary committee expressed concern Wednesday about delays in Kuwait's enforcement of human rights after the Gulf war.

The Foreign Affairs Committee said it was concerned about the "hesitant way" in which Kuwait was approaching the provision and enforcement of human rights and accountable government.

The committee, in a post-Gulf war report, urged Kuwait to act to prevent dissatisfaction in the country from reaching dangerous levels.

It said it recognised that Kuwait was still emerging from a

"horrible trauma of invasion and occupation" by Iraq. "Even so we hope that the Kuwaiti government will be able to adjust its approach and prevent the dissatisfaction in the country reaching dangerous levels," it said.

Since the U.S.-led coalition ejected Iraq from Kuwait at the end of February there have been widespread calls in the Gulf emirate for democratic reforms. The government has promised full parliamentary elections for October next year.

Kuwait's National Council, a consultative body first introduced last year, has been revived. But

opposition leaders say this is simply an attempt by the ruling Al Sabah family to maintain its grip on power against the will of the people.

The committee, which sent a mission to the region in May, endorsed a U.N. proposal for humanitarian aid to be provided quickly to prevent hunger and disease among the Iraqi people.

"We believe that a carefully policed programme of rapid assistance should be put in place as quickly as possible," the report said, adding that there must be strict controls to prevent funds or supplies from reaching the Iraqi military.

Both the United States and Britain have indicated they might support a move to allow limited Iraqi oil sales to buy food and medicine provided there are guarantees against diversion.

A British member of parliament, Gavin Strang, urged Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd Wednesday to unfreeze Iraqi assets held in Britain and allow Baghdad to use the funds to purchase humanitarian supplies under U.N. supervision.

Mr. Strang said he was concerned about reports that tens of thousands of Iraqi children were at risk from lack of food and medicine.

U.N. group meets on Iraqi compensation for invasion

GENEVA (R) — The United Nations body to decide compensation Iraq must pay for its occupation of Kuwait held its opening session Tuesday — with little sign of Baghdad being allowed to resume oil exports to pay up.

The governing council of the United Nations Compensation Commission, comprising representatives of the 15 members of the U.N. Security Council, will administer a fund from which

compensation for direct losses will be made.

It will also establish guidelines for the presentation of claims and their evaluation, said U.N. Under-Secretary-General Carl-August Fleischhauer who opened the meeting due to last until Aug. 2, the first anniversary of Baghdad's invasion.

Also attending were diplomats from Asian nations whose expatriate workers lost their jobs and belongings when they fled

Iraq and Kuwait after the invasion.

Kuwait's ambassador to the U.N. in Geneva, Salem Jaber Ahmad Jaber Al Sabah, told reporters he estimated damages inflicted on his country at between \$50 and \$100 billion.

He said Kuwait was still losing six to seven million barrels of oil a day, worth a daily \$120 million, as a result of fires lit by Iraqi troops.

"We don't even know if these

wells will ever produce oil again," said the ambassador, a son of the Kuwaiti emir.

Saudi Arabia is expected to put in a large claim for expenses incurred in cleaning up oil pollution in the Gulf.

India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Philippines will demand compensation for hundreds of thousands of workers who lost their jobs and who have become an economic and social burden at home.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:50 Children programme
17:10 Book of Adventure
18:30 News for the Deaf
18:50 Religious programme
19:00 Health programme
19:40 Programme review
20:30 News in Arabic
20:50 Local series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:30 Arabic film
22:50 News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Snorky
18:30 Les Chevaliers de l'Éclat
19:00 News in French
19:15 Documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:40 News in Arabic
20:30 The Family Man
21:10 Outlaws
22:00 News in English
22:30 Movie of the week

PRAYER TIMES

06:07 Fajr
12:32 Sunrise
12:32 Dhuhr

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swarthell Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 637285
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Association Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 623366
Church of the Association Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 611205
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 823824 and 654932
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to fresh and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 21 / 32
Aqaba 25 / 40
Desert 22 / 37
Jordan Valley 23 / 38

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32, Aqaba 40. Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent, Aqaba 22 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Dr. Hisham Abu Arqub 893122
Dr. Mohammad Abbadi 778959
Dr. Colman Musalla 774024
Dr. Mohammad Al Sawar 732556
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 770336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Neirokh pharmacy 626972
Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 643945
Shmeisat pharmacy 637660

URD:
Dr. Abdul Majid Gharaibeh 1-1
Al Shamra pharmacy 1985281
ZARQA:
Dr. Ismael Abdul Salam 1-1
Khalifeh pharmacy 65417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue Police 199
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 75121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Hotel Complaints 630321
Public Security Department 625800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 661646
Telephone Information 787111

[directry assistance] 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 630341
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
Company 06-53200
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Alkheh Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 623562
Nalhas, J. Amman 636140
Pulcinone, Shmeisat 664174
Shmeisat Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musashir Hospital 667279
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164
Jalalin, Al-Musashir 7710103
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511126

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Ministers discuss ways to ease traffic congestion at border post

AMMAN (J.T.) — Problems stemming from the shifting of the border post of Ramtha near the Syrian border to another site and the negative effects of the move on local businesses will be among the topics to be discussed during a visit to the region Thursday by three cabinet members.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Salim Al Zoubi, Minister of Interior Jawdat Esboul and Health Minister Mamdouh Al Abbadi will go to Ramtha Thursday for meetings with local officials and representatives to discuss various projects in their areas.

The border post was visited Tuesday by the ministers of Tourism, Public Works and Housing, and Water and Irrigation, who inspected work underway for setting up a JD 2.5 million complex to serve as an administrative and customs post for travellers.

Local people and merchants in Ramtha fear they will suffer because they might be losing their livelihood, which consists mostly of transit services to travellers and shoppers of various goods across the Jordanian-Syrian border, according to Ramtha residents.

The three ministers visiting the Ramtha district Tuesday held a meeting at the border post site with the Mafrqa governor, director of local government departments and prominent representatives of the local community.

The meeting discussed ways of facilitating the movement of passengers across the border post and providing them with the best services.

The ministers praised Armed Forces personnel and units for their cooperation with the official departments in helping them provide services to the citizens.

Work at the site is expected to be finished within the coming two months. The JD 2.5 million project is carried out by eight local contracting companies under the supervision of the Ministry of Public Works and Housing.

After the project is finished, the border post will include 18 buildings.

The ministers held another meeting at Al Ruweishid town municipality building.

The meeting, which was attended by several government department directors and tribal leaders in the area, reviewed the needs of the citizens in the region such as electricity, roads, telephone links, water, health facilities and school buildings.

The ministers promised to study the citizens' demands and to refer them to the Council of Ministers for discussion.

Seminar to address problems posed by population growth

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The General Secretariat of the National Population Commission (NPC), in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is currently holding a ten-day training seminar on the use of computers in analysing fertility and mortality rates in Jordan.

Chaired by the Ministry of Labour, the seminar aims to train a national team to work with the NPC in data related to the demographic development of the country. The seminar, said Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Dughmi, was part of the Kingdom's efforts to achieve sound planning in developmental fields.

As director of the NPC, Dr. Mohammad Akel said, "the Jordanian population has been subject to rapid changes in the past decades."

While the population rate has increased significantly since the 1950s, the mortality rate has decreased due to increases in health services and education, Dr. Akel said.

In 1952, the population was 586,000 and increased to 900,776 by 1961. In 1979 the population increased to 2,147,000. Recent NPC estimates now put the population at 3,571,000.

At the same time, according to NPC statistics, the infant mortality rate in 1962 was 162 per 1,000 live births. In 1990 it dropped to 45 per 1,000 and by the year 2000 it is estimated that it will be 36 per 1,000.

In addition, there was a decrease in the fertility rate, which was nearly nine in 1950 to 5.5 in 1990 and forecast to be 4.4 by the year 2000.

"The gap is widening," Dr. Akel told the Jordan Times.

But Jordan's population issue does not end there. Between 1952 and 1991, the growth rate stood at 4.7. "This was prompted by two factors. Namely the increase in population and the migration flow, which consists of voluntary migration — the influx and outflow of labourers — and forced migration for example, the 1967 war where West Bankers and Gazans fled to Jordan."

Again, in 1990, a quarter of a million people left Kuwait for Jordan, he added.

Because of the country's population problem, the NPC was established in 1973. According to Dr. Akel, "Jordanian planners have given careful consideration to the population when formulating their plans."

In the years 1976 to 1990, three five-year plans were created highlighting issues and solutions to the rapid population increase, high fertility rates, dependency ratio, the unbalanced geographical distribution of the population and migration amongst other aspects.

In an effort to curb the population increase, the commission decided to adopt a national health programme for birth spacing. "The programme follows the religious factors and social heritage of the country," Dr. Akel said.

For example, thirty five per cent of Jordanian women between the ages of 15 and 49 use contraceptives. "Those who cannot afford them need help," Dr. Akel said.

The programme is targeting married couples under the supervision of qualified doctors. The programme educates the public about population factors and provides health services free of charge, according to the NPC.

Such schemes are constantly being analysed and updated. The seminar, which is training 25 participants from 15 institutions, would help Jordan lay the foundation for a data base on prospects in human resources, development and population growth between 1990 and 2005. Dr. Ali Attiga, UNDP resident representative said in the opening session.

As a forecast for these years, the NPC conducted a number of studies in education, labour force and migration, housing and public utilities, health services, mother and child health and water and food security. According to the general secretariat report, "the purpose of the studies is to establish a national strategy for population compatible in its aims with developmental efforts whether economic, social, or human. This will contribute towards identifying procedures which should be followed in facing future needs of the population."

Dr. Akel, who spoke at the opening session, said that the seminar was a response to the urgent needs of Jordan, which faces numerous population problems. Such related problems are matters that would be tackled through proper handling of data and information related to population.

Currently, 1,000 Jordanian teachers are working in Yemen as seconded by the Ministry of Education but there are another 1,000 under direct contracts with the Yemeni authorities, said Dr. Masri.

Yemen, which is linked to Jordan through the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), coordinates its activities in various fields with the Kingdom through a joint Jordanian-Yemeni Higher Committee.

Agreements over the past five years endorsed by the Higher Committee covered cooperation in education, energy, electricity, industry, vocational training and other fields.

In May 1991, a Yemeni delegation concluded talks with officials at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and announced that Yemen would benefit from Jordan's experience of natural gas for power.

Another facet of the close ties between Sanaa and Amman is that the two sides agreed in 1989 that Yemeni nationals would be exempted from acquiring prior approval to visit Jordan and would not be asked to pay any residence fees during their stay in the Kingdom.



BOARD MEETING: Officials of Iraq-Jordan Land Transport Company meet to discuss profits

Iraq-Jordan land transport company reports lower profits due to Gulf crisis and war

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Iraq-Jordan Land Transport Company (IJLTC) has reported JD 1.4 million in net profits from its operations in 1990 transporting goods from and to Amman and Baghdad and to other parts of the Arab World, according to a statement issued at the opening of the company's General Assembly meeting in Amman Wednesday.

The Jordanian and Iraqi sides to the meetings are expected to review a report by the company's board of directors about the company's operations, proposed budget for 1991 and final closing of accounts for 1990, according to a statement by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Petra reported that the Iraqi team to the meeting, which arrived here Tuesday, is led by Minister of Transport and Communications Abdul Sattar Al Maini while the Jordanian team is led by Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister Ali Suheimat.

Last year, the company's board reported that the IJLTC had made profits totalling JD 2.65 million from its 1989 operations. The decline in profits in 1990 was attributed by local officials to the Gulf crisis and limited transport operations due to the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq.

Welcoming the Iraqi team at the opening session, Mr. Suheimat said that Jordan sympathises with the Iraqi people, who he said are going through a very difficult stage. He said the Jordanian people hope that the government and people of Iraq would overcome their present hardships.

The minister praised bilateral cooperation in transport, expressing hope that the two countries would further expand their cooperation in the interest of the two peoples.

The Iraqi minister voiced his appreciation and gratitude for the Jordanian people's sympathy and support during the Gulf crisis. Iraq, the minister said, will turn its attention to reconstruction so that the nation would resume its role in the Arab World.

Mr. Maini said that the Jordanian and Iraqi people have very strong ties and are continually promoting cooperation for their mutual benefit and that of the Arab World.

The IJLTC, which was established in 1980, operates nearly 900 trucks.

Minister implements Supreme Court ruling calling for new elections by Jordanian Women's Federation

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The one-year-old dispute between the Ministry of Social Development and women activists came to an end earlier this week when newly appointed Minister Awni Bashir put into action a January Supreme Court ruling that the Jordanian Women's Federation should hold new elections by appointing a 17-member interim Executive Committee.

The committee has 60 days to complete the task of setting up new elections in the capital as well as in 7 municipal chapters of the federation.

Minister Bashir said that the interim committee could have its 60 days term extended but that he expects the committee to finish their duties by the end of the first 60 days.

"The 17-member committee represents all political affiliations as well as municipal and regional groupings," Mr. Bashir told the Jordan Times. "They are a true representation of Jordanian women and I expect that this group will have their act together in 60 days and that elections will be held then."

The interim Executive Committee is expected to draw up new electoral rules in which every 50 members of the federation, either independent or members of a society, will have three chosen representatives at the General

Congress, which elects the National Executive Committee.

"We met for the first time today and we are committed to holding elections as soon as we possibly can," Interim Executive Committee President Siham Al Kassem said Wednesday.

"There is a great deal of cooperation and I see no sign that ideological differences will come in the way of federation work again," she said.

But other federation members said they feared that the Islamist women, who had taken virtual hold of the federation since last August, were not enthusiastic about the new arrangements.

"The feud is not over. It has only changed," said one federation insider who asked to remain anonymous. "The Islamists will think of new tactics to tackle this problem, but they won't just forget it."

The feud among the women and the ministry was based on allegations of gerrymandering and illegal municipal and national elections held last August.

Technically, the feud should have ended in mid-May when the Supreme Court ruled the elections illegal and void.

The minister of social development and social affairs at the time, a staunch Islamist who sexually segregated his ministry during his seven month term in office, failed to implement the Supreme Court decision and call for new elections in the legally

given time of 120 days.

As a result, tensions between the women activists and the ministry as well as the Executive Committee members of the Jordanian Women's Federation reached an all time high. A memorandum was sent to the then Prime Minister Mudar Badran asking him to personally step in to call for new elections.

The dispute was based on ideological differences between secular and Islamist women leaders. The seculars, who were voted out of office last August due to what the court ruled were improperly divided electoral districts and electoral rules, charged that politicised elements in the Ministry of Social Development were largely behind the problems the federation was facing with political plurality.

Although the women's federation, which represents up to 9,000 Jordanian women in all parts of the country, is not officially politicised, it has become a showplace of sorts for political process.

During the conflict women representing independent, leftist and pan-Arab political trends were pitted against Islamist women purportedly supported by the Muslim Brotherhood movement.

"The differences between the women is a reflection of the political differences in the rest of the country. We are a mirror image of each other," said one federation member summing up the situation.

Yemeni decision won't affect Jordanians

AMMAN (J.T.) — A recent decision by the government of Yemen to terminate the contracts of 28,000 teachers working in the country as of the coming scholastic year will not affect Jordanian teachers employed in Yemen, according to Ministry of Education Secretary General Munther Al Masri.

Dr. Masri said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the Ministry of Education has not yet received from the Yemeni government any notification or official contact to inform it that Jordanian teachers were covered in the decision.

Currently, 1,000 Jordanian teachers are working in Yemen as seconded by the Ministry of Education but there are another 1,000 under direct contracts with the Yemeni authorities, said Dr. Masri.

Yemen, which is linked to Jordan through the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), coordinates its activities in various fields with the Kingdom through a joint Jordanian-Yemeni Higher Committee.

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Another facet of the close ties between Sanaa and Amman is that the two sides agreed in 1989 that Yemeni nationals would be exempted from acquiring prior approval to visit Jordan and would not be asked to pay any residence fees during their stay in the Kingdom.

Mr. Abu Hassan was accompanied on the visit by the members of the chamber's Board of Directors, who toured the various parts of the industrial complex.

Committee urges Arab World to expand vocational education

AMMAN (J.T.) — A five-member committee charged by the Arab countries to help upgrade vocational training in the Arab World with assistance from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) concluded a three-day meeting in Amman Wednesday by issuing a set of recommendations and ideas.

The committee, which is based in Amman, adopted a plan of action for 1991-1992 and urged national governments in the Arab World to individually seek help from the concerned world organisations for their own endeavours in vocational training.

A final statement issued at the conclusion of the committee's three-day meeting underlined the importance of giving attention to vocational training for women in the Arab World and urged Arab states to consider the establishment of documentation and information centres about education in general and vocational training in particular.

The statement urged the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development to finance Arab countries' vocational training endeavours.

In addition to the U.N.-sponsored vocational training projects, the participants discussed the prospects of setting up a regional network to provide information and data about vocational training.

Amman Chamber of Industry to open office at Sahab Industrial City

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman Chamber of Industry will soon open an office at the Sahab Industrial City in order to offer better service to Jordanian industrialists and factory owners.

The announcement was made by the Chamber's Board Chairman Khalidoun Abu Hassan during a visit to the industrial city at Sahab, southeast of Amman.

Mr. Abu Hassan discussed with Dr. Fayez Suheimat, the director general of the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC), a number of matters related to arrangements for the new office, its functions and future plans.

The office will work closely with local industrialists and factory owners, offering them channels of contact with the outside world. Dr. Suheimat expressed satisfaction with the ongoing cooperation between the Chamber and the JIEC, who are promoting industry and stimulating exports.

Last Monday Dr. Suheimat, said that the Sahab Industrial City was witnessing a growing demand of investors seeking to

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Mr. Abu Hassan discussed with Dr. Fayez Suheimat, the director general of the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC), a number of matters related to arrangements for the new office, its functions and future plans.

The office will work closely with local industrialists and factory owners, offering them channels of contact with the outside world. Dr. Suheimat expressed satisfaction with the ongoing cooperation between the Chamber and the JIEC, who are promoting industry and stimulating exports.

Last Monday Dr. Suheimat, said that the Sahab Industrial City was witnessing a growing demand of investors seeking to

establish new industrial projects after a break of several months because of the Gulf crisis.

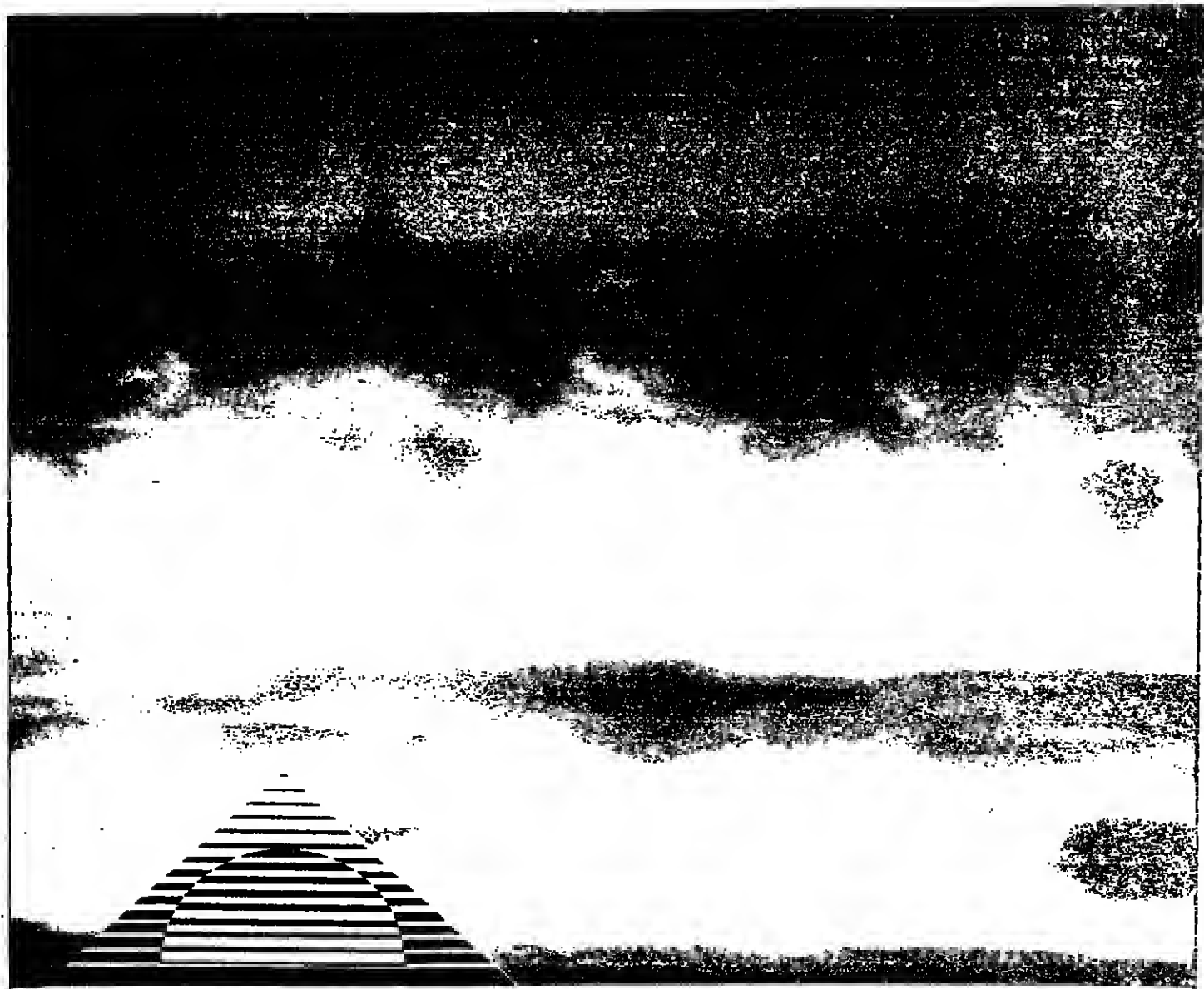
During the first half of 1991, the city has witnessed the emergence of 25 new industrial companies with capital totalling JD 13 million, Dr. Suheimat said. The new firms created 600 new jobs.

Dr. Suheimat said that the Sahab Industrial City now houses 213 projects with a total capital investment of JD 117 million.

Mr. Abu Hassan said that the companies and factories established at Sahab Industrial City are owned by Jordanians or jointly between Jordanians and other Arab and foreign countries. He said that the Chamber of Industry hopes to open offices in other cities in Jordan.

Dr. Suheimat told Mr. Abu Hassan that the JIEC will offer the Chamber of Industry all the facilities it needs for its operations.

Mr. Abu Hassan was accompanied on the visit by the members of the chamber's Board of Directors, who toured the various parts of the industrial complex.



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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Cohesiveness at a critical stage

THE Arab Nation is at a critical phase. An opportunity is here at last to realise the long-sought objective of peace in the Middle East. If the Arab World plays its cards right, there is an even chance that the usurped Arab rights could be regained from the Israelis before it becomes too late. Of course, that is not to say that the path is clearly laid out. On the contrary, danger lurks at every turn. But then that should not dissuade us from pursuing the right track and approach to the goal of peace.

There is no doubt Israel is more aware of this situation than anyone else and is trying harder than ever to sow dissension among Arab ranks so that a coherent Arab position will be missing when the phase of actual negotiations begins.

What we are hearing in the media today is Israeli drums beating, clearly aimed at distorting Arab thinking and creating further divisions in the Arab World.

Precisely the lesson that should be understood first and foremost in this situation is to take to every step with utmost caution. The Arabs should not let themselves be taken in or swayed by the kind of rhetoric and disinformation emanating from Israel, which throughout the years has always made gains by dividing the Arabs.

Instead of levelling charges and fighting among themselves, the Arabs should be more interested in forging a united strategy capable of confronting every Israeli move and deviating tactics aimed at shifting Arab attention away from the crux of the matter towards peripheral issues.

For one thing, there is an immense amount of reports originating from Israel as to the very nature and objective of the proposed conference and the participation of the various parties involved in the Middle East conflict. Instead of rushing into Israeli-designed conclusions and resorting to hasty actions, we should put our heads together, weigh and study each and every piece of information and determine how relevant it is to the central Arab objective of a just and honourable peace settlement which will allow the region's people to live a decent life.

The key to success in the Arab endeavour to achieve this end is cohesiveness to draw clear lines between reality and falsehood. And as long as this element remains missing in the Arab approach, then there is little hope of any light at the end of the tunnel.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i daily Wednesday bitterly criticised Iran for attacking Arab countries now oriented towards reaching a settlement with Israel over the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The paper noted that Tehran has attacked Arab states efforts to bring an end to the suffering of the Palestinian people and called for jihad in order to achieve that goal. The Arabs would have accepted Tehran's views had the Iranian regime not sided with the Western alliance in its aggression on Iraq and the Arab governments and might have re-examined their position had they known that Iran was genuine in its calls, the paper noted. It said that the Iranians have not only sided with the U.S.-led aggression on Iraq, but caused more devastation and suffering in Iraq by sending in infiltrators and trouble-makers to destroy their Arab neighbour. The Iranians have stopped being neutral in the Iraqi-Western conflict and joined the aggressors causing sufferings to the Iraqi people who are already suffering from the economic embargo let alone the devastation caused by the Western aggression, the paper noted. Indeed, all Arabs are committed to the principles of jihad and upholding the Islamic faith, but they also realise that the Iranians have sold out their relation with their Arab Muslims and caused more devastation to the Arabs and Muslims of Iraq, the paper noted. It advised Iran to stop issuing attacks against or advice to the Arabs on how to handle their own affairs. The paper said that the Arabs who had been stabbed by Iran in the back can only reject anything coming out from Tehran.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Wednesday urged Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid to interfere with the Saudi authorities and facilitate land travel between Saudi Arabia and Jordan. Salah Abdul Samad said that any move by the Arab League chief in that direction is bound to help end differences among Arab states, which is being sought by the Arab League at present. The writer focused attention on the plight of the Jordanian expatriates working in Saudi Arabia under contract and spending their holidays in the Kingdom at present and said that they are finding it more and more difficult to travel back by land to Saudi Arabia due to the long delay by the Saudi embassy in Amman to issue the necessary visas. The writer said that these expatriates hold valid contracts to work in Saudi Arabia and they cannot travel with their families and their belongings back to work there by plane and have to return by land as they had entered the Jordanian territories. The writer said facilitating the travel of Arabs across Arab borders should by no means be linked to the political stands of governments which might have differences of some kind. He said that the present cloudy skies prevailing in the Arab World are bound to be cleared sooner or later and the Arab citizens everywhere should, therefore, remain close and cooperating with one another on brotherly and amicable basis.

Citizens of Israel are not equal

By Israel Shahak

FOR over 200 years Jews have been demanding equality in every state in which they happened to live, with the notable exception of Israel, which by contrast has always stood by a principled denial of equality to all non-Jews. In its origins, this fact derives from the principles of the Zionist movement which, from its very inception long before the establishment of Israel, staunchly opposed the idea of granting equality to non-Jews.

This article seeks to describe some of the legal discriminations related to inequality between Israeli citizens; it leaves aside the much more ruthless forms of discrimination applied in the occupied territories.

Redemption of the land

One of the most important of these legal discriminations applies to land located in Israel's territory and its "redemption" (geula). The very term "redemption" is borrowed from religion. In Judaism it refers to the salvation of an individual soul, but also to the salvation of the Jewish people to be achieved when the Messiah comes. Consequently, the expression "unredeemed" carries a strong connotation of impurity and taint.

In this meaning, the terms are taught to Jewish children in Israel in every school from the tenderest age, and to children of staunch Zionists in the diaspora. Their misuse for quite mundane purposes can be dangerous, in the same way as the misuse of sacred Islamic terms by secular Arab chauvinists, like Saddam Hussein, can be dangerous. As taught to little children in Israel, the "Redemption of Land" doctrine simply says that if a plot of land anywhere in the whole "Land of Israel" is either collectively or individually owned by Jews, it is "redeemed," and if not, it is "unredeemed." In that form, the connection of the doctrine with government policies is transparent. For it follows that "to redeem land," i.e. to transfer it from non-Jewish to Jewish ownership, is a foremost national obligation, whereas failure to do so is calamitous.

The qualities of the non-Jewish owner of such land make no difference. A non-Jew may be held by the common public, (eg. somebody who saved Jewish lives during the Holocaust) or even by rabid Jewish chauvinists (eg. the Palestinian collaborators) in highest esteem, and yet land be owned would still be considered "unredeemed." Those to whom this abominable doctrine is inculcated at an early age need to make quite an effort to free themselves from its mental clutches.

Responsibility for acquiring "unredeemed" land lies with the Land Department of the Jewish National Fund and its subsidiary agency, Heimanuta. Heimanuta operates according to the principle that "JNF lands should be allocated for the exclusive use of Jews." Its directors are quoted as saying that their agency seeks to get hold of "every piece of land that is not yet owned by the Jews."

The head of Heimanuta is also deputy chairman of the JNF. In a recent article in Yediot Aharonot, he defined Heimanuta as "actually a dummy company of the State of Israel," operating on the orders and on behalf of the Israeli government and its various agencies. Like its parent body the JNF, Heimanuta is now being financed from various government funds which are not listed in the annual government budget. This money is used either to "redeem" the property of non-Jewish owners by purchasing it, or, apparently more often, by buying up Jewish property said to be offered for sale to non-Jews, even by paying exorbitant prices for it, only in order to prevent its falling into non-Jewish hands. Presumably, the Shin Bet and other government agencies keep themselves busy reporting such prospective sales to Heimanuta. Each such sale is then duly reported in the press, with the effect of producing a wave of patriotic indignation.

But in addition to preventing the sale of real estate to non-Jews, Heimanuta has other concerns. Yediot Aharonot last year

reported how Heimanuta was also "secretly subsidising apartments in Upper Nazareth for their Jewish tenants so as to stop Israeli Arabs from competing for them." Protests against this state of affairs, couched in the strongest terms possible, periodically appear in the Hebrew press.

In Ha'aretz, on Feb. 10, Professor Uzi Ornan, writing under the suggestive title of "An Amazing Resemblance to South Africa," argued as follows:

The ownership of land in Israel remains legally under the purview of the Israel Lands Authority (ILA). In accordance with an agreement worked out with the JNF, the ILA upholds all JNF regulations concerning the land under its control. This land can never be sold, only leased out. In this way, the ILA officials can decide who is to be leased a plot, or a house, or an apartment in a housing project. In so doing the ILA applies a clear-cut "basic standard"... Whoever is registered as a "Jew" is fully eligible for a lease in a greater part of the country, including its cities and settlements (in Israel); but whoever is not so registered is barred from occupying real estate in most of the country's territory. In this way, the law and various regulations enforce what could be referred to as physical residential segregation both of individuals and of whole communities, organised in separate "bantustans."

As Professor Ornan and other commentators make clear, the area on which these racist restrictions apply amount to 92 per cent of the land of pre-1967 Israel.

In a subsequent article in Ha'aretz, Ornan states: "It is impossible to deny that Israel is an apartheid state. This apartheid has been entrenched in a system of laws, regulations and practices which govern the operation of state institutions." However he notes that contrary to the situation with regard to land where, as we have seen, the apartheid is open and blatant, "what characterises most of those discriminatory laws is that on the surface, they do not appear to be discriminatory. However, a more in-depth analysis of some of the basic ones quickly reveal the extent to which they discriminate

between "Jews" and "non-Jews." By studying them one cannot fail to reach a conclusion that Israel is an apartheid state, and that apartheid not only manifests itself socially, but that it is also embedded in the legal system.

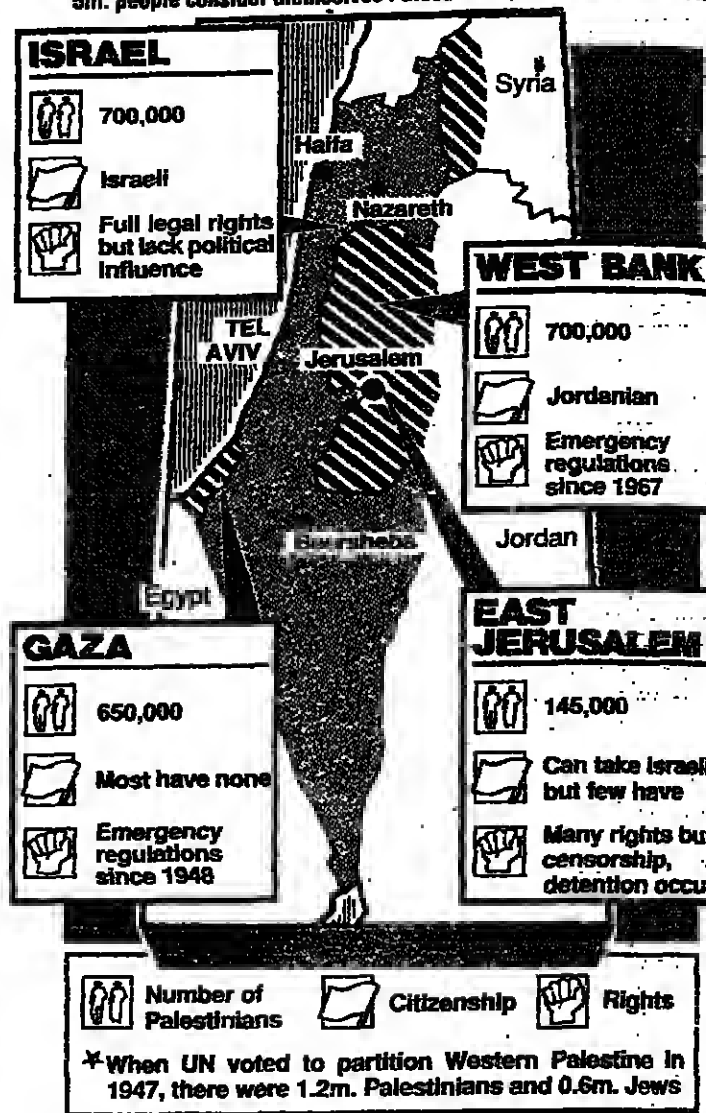
The Laws of Entry and of Return

Among his examples is the 1982 Law of Entry into Israel, which was apparently legislated simply to regulate entry into the country. However, all its clauses, save the one making it obligatory to enter by way of an official border control point, are intended to make a clear distinction between foreign citizens who are Jewish and those who are not. Yet the words "Jew" and "non-Jew" do not appear. So it is, for instance, that the law stipulates that whoever "does not hold an immigration visa or immigration certificate" can be immediately deported by the minister of the interior, or can be denied a visa at any time. As for the explanation or definition of who qualifies for an immigration visa, one must seek the answer in another law, the Law of Return. The answer: Jews.

However, the authority vested in the minister of the interior to deny entry to foreign citizens if there is reason to suspect they may harm the public is only applicable to non-Jews. The minister of the interior does not have the authority to deny any Jew—even if he is a scoundrel of the first order who can be counted on to do harm—the right to settle in Israel. The reason: Jews do not need permits to settle in Israel. Only a foreign citizen who is not a Jew needs such a permit. Jews arriving in Israel from abroad almost immediately receive an "immigration certificate" which provides them with "citizenship by virtue of having returned," as though they had been citizens of the country for generations. They also immediately acquire the right to vote in elections and to be elected to the Knesset. While the minister of the interior has the authority—albeit, authority which cannot be exercised without great difficulty—to deny "immigration visas" to Jews, once a Jew enters the country, the minister

The plight of the Palestinians

5m. people consider themselves Palestinians, 1.7m. live in Jordan



of the interior cannot do anything about it, and does not even have the authority to withdraw residence permits from undesirable. In regard to non-Jews, the situation is quite different: the minister of the interior can withdraw their permits even if they have been living here for years, not under the Law of Return but under the law governing entry into Israel.

Many more examples of such apartheid laws can be given and I can quote here only Ornan's summary of the situation: "Blatant

discrimination against non-Jews can also be found in other laws dealing with the acquisition of property, government support for young couples, educational curricula, and government expenditure for schools, to cite just a few examples. The routine means for enforcing discrimination is the ID card, which everyone is obliged to carry at all times. ID cards list "nationality," which can be "Jewish," "Arab," "Druze," "Circassian," "Samaritan" or "foreign." — Middle East International, London.

Heavens on a hair-trigger

By John Gribbin

THE discovery, announced last week, that ozone depletion is occurring twice as fast as had been thought over Europe and North America has pulled the rug from under the complacent belief that the ozone "problem" had been solved.

Even though many countries are taking action to phase out use of the CFCs that damage the ozone layer of the stratosphere, it is clear that ozone depletion will get much worse, reaching maximum severity about the year 2000, before the wound begins to heal. Over the next 10 years, the depletion may become twice as great as we have already experienced, and conditions will not return to those of the early 1970s until after the middle of the 21st century.

The prospect is alarming, because ozone in the stratosphere—concentrated between about 15km and 30km above our heads—shields us from the sun's ultra-violet radiation. This causes sunburn in small doses, and skin cancer and eye cataracts in larger doses. It also damages plants; some studies have shown that a 25 per cent increase in the amount of ultraviolet reduces the yield of soyabean by the same amount. And each 1 per cent decrease in the amount of ozone overhead may increase by 2 per cent the amount of ultraviolet reaching the ground.

In 1984, scientists from the British Antarctic Survey reported that they had discovered a "hole" in the ozone layer above the continent. Fortunately, Antarctica is an almost unpopulated region; but subsequent studies have shown that in each southern spring as much as half the ozone above Antarctica disappears, before being gradually replenished in summer by air moving in from lower latitudes.

A similar effect occurs over the North Pole, but it is less intense because the northern stratosphere never gets as cold as the air above Antarctica.

Intensive scientific research in the late eighties established the cause of this ozone depletion beyond reasonable doubt. The ultimate culprit is chlorine which is carried into the stratosphere by molecules of CFCs, the compounds that have been widely used in spray cans, refrigerators, and to make the bubbles in foamed plastic.

The chlorine is released in an active form by reactions which take place on the surface of tiny ice crystals in clouds high above Antarctica during the long, dark winter; and it does its damage to the ozone layer when stimulated



"The chlorine is released in an active form by reactions which take place on the surface of tiny ice crystals in clouds high above Antarctica during the long, dark winter, and it does its damage to the ozone layer when stimulated by the return of sunlight in the spring."

by the return of sunlight in the spring.

As a result of this discovery many industrialised countries, including Britain, the rest of the EC, and the United States, signed an agreement known as the Montreal Protocol under which most releases of CFCs will be phased out by the end of the century. Britain and some other countries have since gone further, committing themselves to phasing it out by 1997.

But some opponents of this action believe this was an over-hasty response to a problem affecting only the far south of our planet; and rapidly developing countries such as India and China, with burgeoning CFC industries, have made no commitment to phase out.

Now the problem has moved closer to home. In the report, Stratospheric Ozone 1991, scientists from the U.K. Stratospheric Ozone Research Group draw attention to new evidence of a large ozone loss above Europe and North America during early spring each year. Satellite measurements show that between 1979 and 1990 the amount of ozone overhead in February and March fell by 8 per cent between about 30° N and 50° N, roughly

in a band from Gibraltar to London.

This came as a complete surprise. Nobody understands why it should be happening so far from the polar region, although there seems little doubt that it is also due to the build-up of chlorine from CFCs. If the trend persists, there will be an overall loss of 15 per cent of springtime ozone by the year 2000, perhaps allowing 30 per cent more ultraviolet to reach the ground in spring.

Nobody is likely to be sunbathing in London in February and March, so the effect on human skin cancers may be small. But crops are already beginning to grow at this time of year, and young seedlings are especially vulnerable to this radiation. Thus it could have implications for agriculture.

But that may be the least of our problems. John Pyle, of the British Antarctic Survey, who headed the team that produced the new report, points out that there was no dramatic change in the Antarctic ozone layer for many years, even though the burden of CFCs in the stratosphere was steadily increasing. But once some critical threshold of CFC concentration had been reached, the hole appeared suddenly, in a

single season.

He fears that as the amount of chlorine in the northern hemisphere continues to increase steadily, it may reach some similar threshold, triggering the sudden development of a hole in the ozone layer over Europe and North America as deep as that over Antarctica.

And this could happen at any time: it may even happen next February.

One possible reason for ozone depletion is that reactions, like those that occur on ice crystals in the polar stratosphere, are taking place in the sulphuric acid droplets that occur naturally in the stratosphere. This is especially alarming since the recent eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines threw large quantities of sulphur dioxide gas high into the atmosphere, where it reacts to form sulphuric acid.

The satellite Nimbus7 has tracked a 1,000-mile-long cloud of sulphur dioxide from the eruption, and this is likely to spread large amounts of sulphuric acid into the critical region of the northern hemisphere in the coming winter. Scientists will be watching for an even more dramatic drop in the ozone concentration next spring: over much of Europe it has already fallen by 8 per cent, and it may fall a further 15 per cent.

All of this makes it more urgent than ever to phase out CFC production as rapidly as possible. But there is a sting in the tail of the SORC report. Dr. Pyle and his colleagues point out that some of the substitutes for CFCs, although better for the ozone layer in the long term, may do damage in the short term.

The problem is that CFCs are very long-lived, and do their damage over decades; which is why it will take until at least the year 2050 for the atmosphere to recover, even if CFC production stopped tomorrow. Replacements known as HCFCs do less damage, but they do it more quickly. So, for the next 10 years or so the stratosphere will be suffering a twin assault: from old CFCs, released up to 30 years ago, and from the HCFCs being released today.

The report cautions against "anything other than a very modest substitution of HCFCs for CFCs," and Dr. Pyle urges instead that we learn to be less wasteful in our use of CFCs and their alternatives.

It may also be wise for inhabitants of the south of England to stock up on the kind of facial warpaint so beloved by Australian cricketers, which is an effective screen against ultraviolet rays — The Guardian.

Gulf war: Historic or insignificant?

By Mike Fehsler
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It's been only 51 weeks since Iraq occupied Kuwait, provoking the Gulf war that not long ago seemed like the most important event since the end of World War II.

It kept Americans up all night, "watching the war" on television. President George Bush compared Saddam to Hitler. History will tell how, in the longer view, this war will shake down and where it will fit when measured against America's other wars — the revolutionary war of 1812, the Mexican, the civil, the Spanish American, World Wars I and II, the Korean, the Vietnam and the cold.

"Wounds magnify a war. We're not going to have long lists of casualties on brass plaques in American towns. So the odds are that the war is going to quickly fade in national memory, if we get out of there without a lot more damage."

If you can't wait, and you push historians for instant evaluations of the war, some surprising answers emerge:

— As a purely military enterprise, the war is losing its gloss.

— "A technological turkey shoot," said Warren Kimball, a Rutgers University historian who specialises in war.

— If it had been more painful to the United States, it would have made a more lasting imprint in history.

"Wounds magnify a war," said Yale's Henry Ashby Turner. "We're not going to have long lists of casualties on brass plaques in American towns. So the odds are that the war is going to quickly fade in national memory, if we get out of there without a lot more damage."

— By virtue of the east with which it was won, the war may

come to be seen as an event that subsequently caused America to throw its weight around.

"Since there weren't many losses, it could tend to make the use of military force a bit easier," said Mr. Kimball. "I was pleased to see that Bush didn't send the special forces into Croatia to keep the peace."

— The war's most lasting achievement may be to establish the principle, not jelled yet, of "intrusive inspection of a hostile country."

The way in which the United Nations is insisting upon the right to inspect the nooks of Iraq for troubling nuclear capacity is something new in mankind's efforts to abate its own destruction, said John Gaddis, a diplomatic historian at Ohio University.

History, said Mr. Gaddis, also will note with astonishment the disproportionality of the casualties: about 200 allied deaths and an estimated 100,000 Iraqi deaths.

As for the war's overall place, Mr. Gaddis judges that American history will deem it as having been in the long-term national interest, will conclude "it was done reasonably well" and will note that precedent of involuntary international inspection.

Yale's Mr. Turner isn't so sure. "As we get more perspective it won't seem so surprising that the greatest military power in the world could defeat a Third World country" with a population about twice that of New Jersey's.

Mr. Turner regrets that Mr. Bush did not see if his objectives could have been won without war in view of the precedent that would have set.

History, he said, may judge the war was "a missed opportunity to break really new ground by attempting through economic sanctions to achieve the same goal without bloodshed."

Mr. Kimball ranks the war as historically insignificant — maybe "more important than a few of the Indian wars and the Grenada and Panama expeditions."

Thursday is the new deadline set by the United Nations for Iraq to come clean about its nuclear material, equipment and facilities or face "serious consequences."

"This may have only been the first round," Mr. Turner said. "If we march into Baghdad, 50 years from now we might still be up to our vital organs in Iraqi politics. It took nearly half a century to get out of Europe after the World War II."

"That story, of course, worked out happily."

Few hear the oud's sweet song in occupied Arab lands

By Said Ghazali
The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

Mustafa Kurd described his vision of music lovers crowding his recital, then added "inshallah," or "God willing," an Arabic expression used for wishful but sometimes unlikely developments.

The big night came, and the bearded musician's fingers masterfully caressed the strings of the lute-like oud, his voice rose and fell in harmony, creating a rare musical exhilaration.

But the audience consisted of just 11 people — five Germans, five Palestinians and an American woman.

In Arab East Jerusalem, after 43 months of an uprising against Israeli occupation, nights animated by culture are few. Time is passed with television, videocassettes and dozing in the city that Israel occupied in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

It is uncommon for Jeru-

salem's 140,000 Arab residents to seek amusement on the other side of town dominated by their Israeli foes.

Each evening a dark, moist Arab rush home before Israeli police and masked Palestinian youths put on their almost nightly carnival among the sloping hills and dark streets. Stones and firebombs fly; sometimes answered by police gunfire.

"It is a risk for me to roam through the empty streets and closed shops in the night-time," poet Ali Khalili mused. "Recently I wrote a poem but I do not know what to do with it."

He has published 21 books of poetry and stories, but now there are no readings to introduce new works. Four cultural journals and three publishing houses have closed, at least temporarily, because of financial difficulties after the Gulf war.

Mr. Khalili considers cultural activities "the most important political front" in keeping alive the idea of the

Palestinian nation.

Before the Intifada, or uprising, started in December 1987, East Jerusalem was a centre of culture for the occupied West Bank.

There were plays and movies, recitals of music and "dabkeh" folk dancing, and exhibitions of the embroidery that Palestinian women raise to the level of art.

The entertainments were cut short both by the sobriety demanded by uprising leaders and curfews ordered by Israeli authorities. A lack of money also is constricting, brought on by the intifada and the Gulf war.

Now, Arab Jerusalem's three cinemas are closed, their exteriors still pasted with tatters of the posters for movies they featured three years ago. A few restaurants are open but without shows of Palestinian dancing and singing.

Cultural activities at Palestinian universities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip also have come to a standstill.

Israel closed the six universities at the start of the uprising, and the two that have been reopened have barely enough funds for classes.

Bir Zeit University in the West Bank, which remains shut, was known for its three-week Soak Okath Cultural Festival each year, named for a valley near Mecca where merchants and tribal leaders used to nominate the best poet in the Arabian peninsula.

In Ramallah, once a summer resort famed for its cool hills among the hot surrounding flatlands, Lana Abu H-jeh and her troupe of Dabkeh dancers still rehearse a few hours a week but sometimes wonder why.

"Curfews and closures made it difficult for us. Sixteen out of 36 dancers stopped coming, and we are not working on new performances," she said.

Palestinian activists organize some cultural events, but these are heavily tinged with politics and usually draw sparse audiences. One bright

spot is that some people who turned away from Palestinian culture are now seeking their roots.

Munir Barakat, an antique dealer with a clientele of tourists and diplomats, notes Palestinians are now buying embroidered dresses and Arab furniture they would have thrown out as old-fashioned a few years back.

Kurd, the oud player and singer, sighed when asked about the cultural scene. He returned to the country after 10 years away, taking his music to the Arab World, Europe and United States. "The old days have gone," he said.

He recalled an evening concert in Ramallah years ago with dozens of boy and girl Scouts beating drums and spectators jumping to their feet and shouting "sing it again, Kurd."

"Where are the Scouts? Where are the listeners? All have vanished," Kurd said.

Then he added: "Never mind, the old days will come back. Inshallah."



Al Hambra, one of the three cinemas in East Jerusalem, has been closed since the intifada started in December 1987.

Um Qais Museum

A museum for the finds made in excavations of the Roman site of Gadara in today's Northern Jordan was established and recently opened at Um Qais with cultural aid funds from the German Foreign Office.

This contains sculpture (including a statue of the town goddess Tyche, found in the small theatre there), stone ornaments, mosaics, and ceramics, excavated by archaeologists from the Amman-based German Protestant Institute for Knowledge of Antiquity in the Holy Land, the German Archaeological Institute, and the Liebieghaus in Frankfurt/Main.

Gadara was a town in the Dekapolis, a federation of towns in which Gerassa (Jerash) and Philadelphia (Amman) also belonged.

The museum is in a house built around the turn of the century at the highest point of an Ottoman settlement.

At the time of the former Ottoman Empire, nomads were settled here so that taxes could more easily be extracted from them. It is presumed that the akropolis in hellenistic Gadara (3rd to 1st century B.C.), known only from written records, was below this settlement. Among other things there existed a celebrated school of philoso-



The coolness between Prince Charles and Princess Diana has set tongues wagging.

phy here. The town of Pomejus was destroyed in 63 B.C. and then rebuilt.

The settlement was evacuated some years ago and due to be pulled down so as to create space for excavations of the hellenistic fortress.

In order to preserve what for Jordan is a unique settlement, consisting of large and small farms, two buildings

were initially restored using money from the cultural aid fund. One of these, Bait-Al-Rusan, serves as the museum, and the other, Bait Melkawi, provides accommodation for archaeologists during excavations. Another house in the empty settlement is being converted by the Americans to provide tourist facilities—Kul tur Chronik.

Nashashibi: In the long run freedom pays

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

HE WALKS around with the energy of a young man, talks with the enthusiasm of a discoverer, smiles a knowing smile and never fails to reveal the mysteries surrounding world personalities with the charm of a story teller.

Nassereddine Nashashibi, who can recite stories from memory about film stars such as Asmahan, world leaders like the shah of Iran, Arab leaders including Jama Abdul Nasser, with flair to humour, turns sad when talking about the political state of the Arab World after the Gulf crisis.

The well-known journalist and author of over ten books, turns even sadder and more emotional when describing the situation of his birthplace, Jerusalem, where he now resides after spending many years in different European and Arab capitals.

In all of his interviews with heads of state, Arab or otherwise, Mr. Nashashibi always repeats one question: "What about Jerusalem?" But today, he talks of Jewish settlements around his city, calling them by their Jewish names but never failing to remind his listeners of exactly where they are located in Arab terminology.

His home in Jerusalem, which he inherited from his maternal uncle, Isa'af Nashashibi, is located in Sheikh Jarrah overlooking the Old City of Jerusalem. He

returned to Jerusalem a year ago to renovate his home and find his place in his country.

He relates a telling story of how he found the road on which the house is built, renamed to "Red Cross Road" and fought to have it changed to Isa'af Nashashibi Road to commemorate the memory of his uncle, also a writer himself.

Then he gets excited as he speaks of his achievement comparing his status now with another Jerusalemite who is living on a road that carries a Jewish name.

"They are changing the face of Jerusalem," he says.

With humour, he talks of his walks around the narrow streets of Jerusalem now. "I find myself standing in different corners and reciting Koran for members of my family who lived there or worked there but are no longer alive."

He is at his best when surrounded with fellow Jerusalemites, or even better fellow Sheikh Jarrah neighbours. "You remember when..." he keeps saying.

But, the nostalgia for the old times in Jerusalem, have not blinded the politically astute writer from moving quickly into the present, and the situation of the Palestinian problem in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis.

"Israel is winning now because we didn't know how to play our cards correctly," he says with obvious disrespect for the Arab position throughout the months of the Gulf

crisis and war.

"I can only say that we were bankrupt both politically and on the media level. It was total bankruptcy," he says.

The interview with the Jordan Times was conducted in the coffee shop of a five-star Amman hotel where Mr. Nashashibi played host to many Jordanians and Palestinians who came to the hotel to meet him and live part of their past with him.

I sought him out because as a teenager I had joined him in his search for old books in the narrow streets of London. He gave anyone who knew him a strong feeling of admiration for the field of journalism. He ignored all the difficulties and highlighted all the pleasures of this profession. To a teenager, the world of journalism was a fairy tale of travels, fame and friends.

His books are widely distributed in the Arab World and have a special characteristic of being written in beautiful classical Arabic but at the same time flowing like a story with barrages of true political happenings.

Even his books on women tell only stories of those who influenced the politicians dictating policies in the Arab World. But one never shakes the feeling that even behind these unveilings there are even more secrets and more channels that the author himself has chosen to leave untouched.

His ability to link the past with the present in his politi-



Nassereddine Nashashibi

"I am afraid to say that what was left of our national rights is now totally lost," he adds.

He blames Arab journalists for their inability to be "Palestinian" before anything else. "The Palestinian issue is the core of all issues."

What happened in countries like Egypt and Lebanon, Mr. Nashashibi says, was a rejection of the linkage between the Kuwait crisis and the Palestinian issue. "How could anyone be Palestinian and act this way?" he asks.

What the Arab journalists did, Mr. Nashashibi says, "is follow their own tiny little passports and gave up on all the ideals that should have been symptomatic of our world."

He says the Arab World is still living in a "daze" from the Gulf crisis. "We are still living the effects of the morphone that we were injected with."

But, in his eternal optimism, he adds that the path to salvation is still there. Mr. Nashashibi still sees a way which could bridge the differences between the states of the Arab World. "Democracy," he says. Only by democracy can the Arab World ever attempt to bridge differences whether economic or political.

Jordan which has chosen the path of democracy, has taken "the most difficult path in its political history." But, he quickly adds, "in the long run freedom pays."

AMMAN - COLOMBO

Twice Weekly

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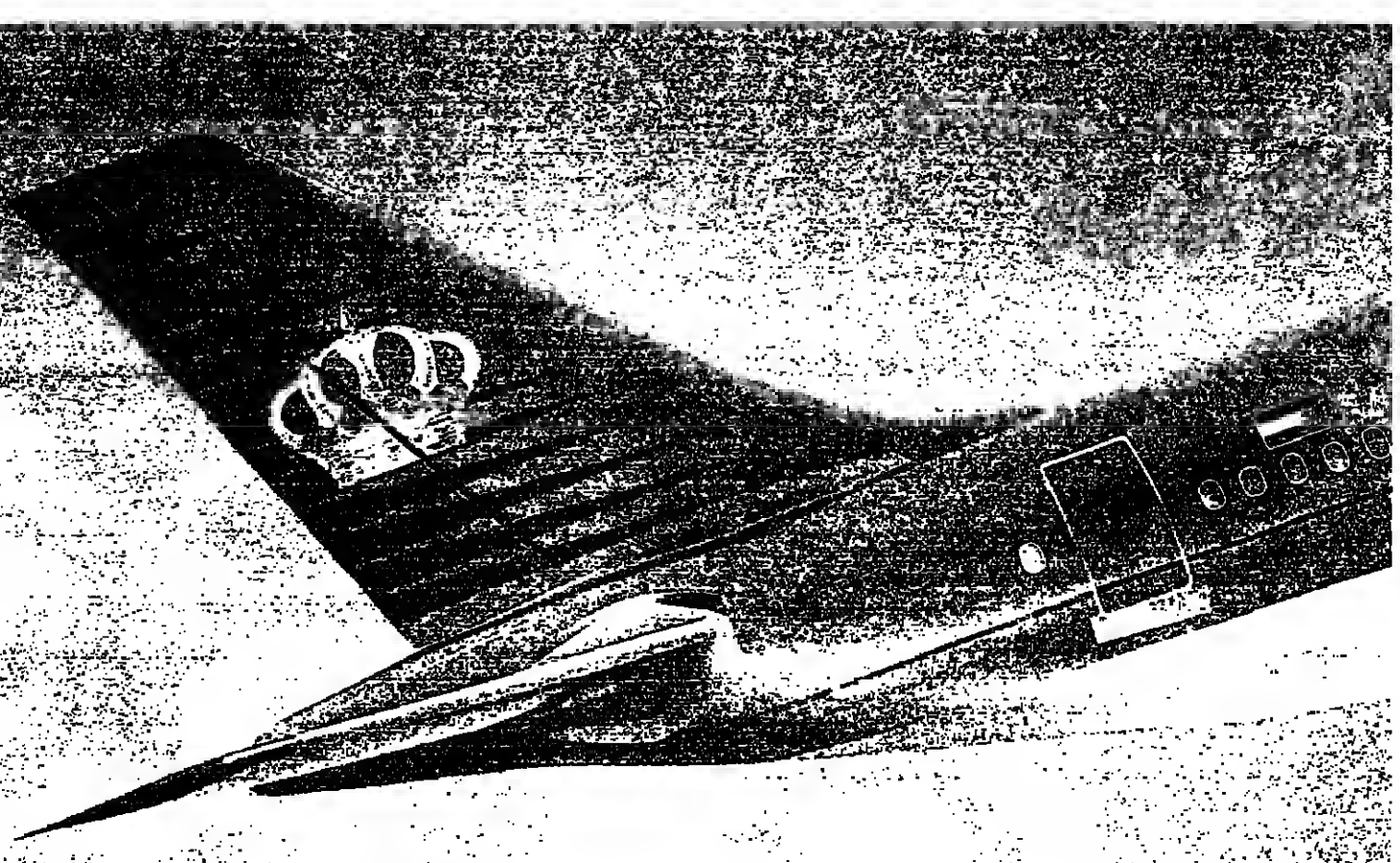
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ROYAL JORDANIAN



The macho image

By Maha Addasi

THE macho image. Is it here to stay? Just by looking around many people have observed and commented about the attitudes of people who they brush shoulders with in their daily lives.

"I walk downtown and almost everyone walks around like they own the sidewalk, when I feel that the most challenging thing they have done that day was pick their teeth," one observer said.

"I have walked in many downtown areas in different countries and the scene is very different there. Everyone seems to be rushing to work or has to get somewhere on time, so they hurry along. Amidst the scurrying people, there is that occasional person who walks down the sidewalk with his hips stretching the seams of his sleeves and he gives the impression that he thinks he's a gift to mankind," he said.

Another person intervened to say that the macho attitude is amplified most clearly when you are waiting to be served at a restaurant. "The waiter would scan the room and eye contact between you and him is attained, so that the waiter knows for sure that you are ready to order. So what does he do? Being the macho person that he is, he simply ignores you. The restaurant could be empty and he wants you to know that you are at his mercy now. It is so ridiculous. What is more aggravating, they do not even smile when they finally do help you. In different countries, waiters are as much sales people as the owners and managers of restaurants. They always make you feel very welcome and you often go back to the same restaurant because the service is fantastic," he said. "I feel sorry for many restaurant owners here because their waiters — maybe unintentionally — 'shoo' away the customers with their aloofness. I feel something can be done to change that," he said.

Many restaurant owners are pulling their hair out as they have tried almost non-stop to change their waiters' characters so that they can, at least, pretend to be friendly. Many have come to the conclusion that, "the attitude is embedded too deep in those people's personalities that it is futile to attempt to change them."

"We need solutions for this matter," one woman said. "I think that 'information' would be a first step. What should be done is inform people that they should work at anything instead of make a job of lazing around downtown. We must



educate them about achievement. We must tell them that attaining goals that they set for themselves is a positive thing even if it is something as effortless as giving customers a friendly smile if they are waiting on them," she said.

Other people, however, feel that things are best kept the way they are. "When these people saunter downtown thinking they are Clint Eastwood look-alikes, when they cross the street right in front of your car so that you have to skid to a halt to avoid hitting them while they in turn look the opposite way as they cross. When all this is happening these people are minding their own business. I am afraid that if someone volunteers to tell them that they should get jobs where they have to act cordial, and even smile at customers, that they would leer at women and say that it is part of their job description; this is something that would aggravate my wife. I honestly believe that things are best kept exactly as they are. I prefer an angry, macho waiter to a furious wife any day," he said.

The golden nightingale (Part One)

By E. Yaghi

In a cool green forest where the half-hidden sun shines gracefully on the inhabitants, a unique golden nightingale lived. She loved her forest home with the smell of the pine trees, the wild flowers and the clear delicious water of the forest spring that bubbled out from between the mossy rocks.

"Oh, I am so lucky," said the golden nightingale to herself. "My voice is as clear as the pure mountain stream, my colour is unparalleled and I am the envy of all the birds in the forest."

Frequently, the golden nightingale would go to the mountain stream to look at her reflection before taking a refreshing sip of water.

One day while the nightingale was busy admiring herself, she fell into a trap near the stream. She struggled frantically to free herself but to no avail. After giving up hope, she saw men approaching. Their wealthy leader said to the rest, "At last I have caught the most beautiful bird in the world! It must be her voice that rings with such a clear sound through the forest. Handle her with care men!"

After the frightened bird was placed in a box and carried a distance, she saw through a hole, a majestic castle at the edge of the forest. Soon, she was in the castle and felt the box gently lowered. When the box was opened, she heard the man who rendered her capture saying to a gruffy, older woman, "mother, at last! Didn't I say I would one day capture the bird with the golden voice? Look at her. She is even more exquisite than her voice!"

"Humph. So? What do you want with a useless bird? If I were you, I'd feed her to the cat or let her fly away before you waste your time and money on her. Where are you going to put the thing?"

"Mother, can't you see," protested the man, "she's unique and enchanting. I'll have the most beautiful cage made for her. A cage of gold to match her colour!"

"At last," thought the bird as the beat of her little heart diminished, "someone who appreciates my beauty and my voice. What a magnificent castle! I shall surely have the most beautiful cage and more than ever be the envy of all the birds in the forest. I do hope they'll put a mirror for me so I will be able to see myself often!" She was happy but there remained with her a feeling of dread towards the man's mother.

Within a few days the bird saw the rich man bringing a golden cage. He gently placed her in it and hung it on the balcony in his large and grand room.

"How beautiful my cage is. It's a treasure!" With delight the golden nightingale jumped on a small golden swing lined with plush red velvet. She took in all her surroundings. Awed, she felt the soft shiny gold bars of the cage with her golden wings. She smelled the newness of her home, and to her supreme delight, there was a little mirror framed with gold.

"When will some of my friends come and see me and my new home? I can hardly wait. My master is a kind, wonderful man. His mother looks very foreboding, but I'm sure she will begin to like me too."

At first the golden nightingale was so involved with her new, rich surroundings that she didn't feel that she was living in a cage and would sing with all her heart. One of her many forest friends who fluttered to the balcony chirped, "Nightingale, you do indeed seem fortunate, but remember, no matter how much your cage glitters, it is still, after all, a cage. It is much better to be free in the forest than to be kept prisoner even in the most beautiful cage."

"You are all envious of my beauty and my cage. What nonsense do you speak of freedom? What is freedom compared to such a life as this?"

So, her friends would bid her farewell and soar up into the clear sky and away to their cool forest home. Unaffected, the nightingale would then go to her little golden mirror and admire herself.

The days pleasantly passed. The rich man was kind and gentle to the captive bird. He would feed her scraps from his own plate. His mother, however, would gruffly pass the golden cage and glare at the little bird. A chill rippled down her spine as the air in the room turned to ice.

"If only I could just fly once again in the forest. If only I could drink from the clear spring and bask on the mossy rocks. But, how fickle I am! I have everything. I am so happy!"

The nightingale, nevertheless, began to long more and more for her forest home. As she was moping, the rich man's mother came and sat in the balcony and roughly stared at the nightingale. The bird watched as the old woman's gnarled fingers touched the soft silver that was set on the table in the balcony. She smelled the fresh butter, bread, and tangy mint tea. When the rich man entered, he neared the cage with, "Hello, my lovely! And good morning, mother. How are you today?"

"Humph! It would be much better if you would get rid of that horrible bird! Isn't it time you thought of getting married? I want some grandchildren before I die."

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, July 25

1593 — France's King Henry IV becomes a Roman Catholic.

1689 — France's King Louis XIV declares war on Britain.

1792 — Austria's Duke of Brunswick issues manifesto threatening destruction of Paris if France's royal family is harmed.

1830 — France's King Charles X issues ordinances controlling the press, dissolving legislative chambers and changing electoral system.

1878 — China's first diplomatic mission to United States arrives in Washington.

1907 — Japan obtains protectorate over Korea.

1920 — French forces occupy Damascus; Greeks under King Alexander occupy Adrianople.

1934 — Chancellor Engelbert Dollfuss is assassinated in unsuccessful Nazi coup attempts in Austria.

1943 — Benito Mussolini is forced to resign as premier of Italy during World War II.

1956 — Italian liner Andrea Doria and Swedish ship Stockholm collide off coast of New England, and 50 lives are lost.

1963 — United States, Soviet Union and Britain conclude treaty prohibiting nuclear testing in atmosphere, space or under water.

1968 — Pope Paul VI bans all artificial birth control methods for Roman Catholics.

1971 — Doctor Christian Barnard transplants two lungs and heart into man in Cape Town, South Africa, and the operation is described as successful.

1973 — Federal judge rules that U.S. government must halt bombing of Cambodia on grounds it is "unauthorized and unlawful."

1986 — Masked Sikh extremists shoot and kill 15 people, 14 of them Hindus, in ambush on bus at railroad crossing in India's Punjab state.

1990 — Liberian rebels attack airport in Monrovia, closing off that city's last link to outside world.

Friday, July 26

1605 — French Protestants hold assembly at Chateaufort in defiance of King Henry IV.

1757 — French under D'Es-

trees defeat British under Cumberland at Hastenback in eastern Germany.

1821 — Turkey and Russia sever relations after Turkey refuses to protect Christian subjects.

1891 — France annexes South Sea island of Tahiti.

1926 — Philippines legislature calls for plebiscite on independence, but it is vetoed by U.S. governor-general.

1942 — British Air Force stages heavy raid on Hamburg in Germany in World War II.

1945 — Britain, United States and China demand Japan's unconditional surrender as terms for peace in World War II.

1952 — Egypt's King Farouk abdicates in favour of infant son, Fuad.

1953 — Fidel Castro begins revolt in Cuba, attacking army barracks at Santiago.

1956 — Egypt's President Jamal Abdul Nasser nationalizes Suez Canal, and Britain, France and United States announce financial retaliations.

1963 — Earthquake hits Skopje, Yugoslavia, taking more than 1,000 lives.

1974 — Constantine Caramanlis, new Greek premier, forms civilian cabinet after seven years of military rule in Greece.

1984 — Kuwait's defence minister says Emir of Kuwait has ordered air force to shoot on sight any intruder warplanes that violate nation's air space.

1989 — Poland's president rules out turning over government to Solidarity.

1990 — Iraq agrees to pull thousands of troops back from Kuwaiti border after Kuwait agrees to end over-production of oil.

Saturday, July 27

1563 — French army regains Le Havre, France, where English garrison is stricken with plague. Soldiers returning to England introduce the plague.

1655 — Great Elector of Brandenburg concludes defence treaty with Dutch, which starts first northern war when Sweden's King Charles X invades Poland.

1675 — French Marshal Turenne is killed in Battle of Salsbach, marking end of great French victories against Triple Alliance forces.

1710 — British forces score

victory over Spanish at Almirante, Spain.

1795 — Spain signs peace treaty with France, ceding her part of Santo Domingo.

1839 — Opium war between China and Britain begins after Chinese authorities seize and burn British cargoes of opium.

1848 — Russians invade Danubian principalities at request of Turkey to put down revolts there.

1894 — Regent of Korea declares war on China.

1933 — Assyrian Christians are massacred in Iraq.

1941 — Japanese forces land in Indochina during World War II.

1953 — Korean armistice is signed at Panmunjom.

1954 — Britain and Egypt agree on terms ending 72 years of British control of Suez Canal.

1965 — U.S. planes carry out first attacks against anti-aircraft missile sites in North Vietnam.

1978 — U.N. Security Council endorses Western plan for ending guerrilla warfare in South-West Africa and making it independent as new black African state of Namibia.

1987 — Riot police in Sri Lanka clash with Sinhalese Buddhists demonstrating against peace plan aimed at ending bloody rebellion by Tamil Hindus.

1988 — Iraq continues to insist on face-to-face negotiations with Iran before starting any ceasefire in Gulf war.

1990 — Philippine miners rescue two people who had been trapped for 11 days following hotel collapse during earthquake that struck Baguio, killing at least 1,600.

Sunday, July 28

1643 — English parliamentarian force under Oliver Cromwell takes Gainsborough.

1742 — Peace of Berlin between Austria and Prussia ends first Silesian War.

1794 — French revolutionaries M. Robespierre and A. Saint Just are executed.

1821 — Peru's independence from Spain is declared formally.

1866 — Danish constitution is revised in favour of king and upper house.

1868 — Third Maori war breaks out in New Zealand.

1904 — Russia's Minister of Interior Viacheslav Plehve is assassinated.

1914 — Austria-Hungary

declares war on Serbia, signalling start of World War I.

1937 — Japanese seize Peking in China.

1940 — British forces repulse Nazi attack on Mediterranean island of Malta during World War II.

1945 — U.S. Army bomber crashes into Empire State building in New York City, killing 13 people.

1971 — China's Premier Chou En Lai says Peking government will refuse to enter United Nations if Nationalist China remains member.

1976 — Britain severs relations with government of Uganda's President Idi Amin.

1986 — Car stuffed with explosives rips through densely populated residential area of east Beirut, killing at least 32 and wounding 140.

1988 — Tamil rebels kill 14 Sinhalese farmers, and Sri Lanka government troops are put on security alert.

1989 — India agrees to pull its troops out of Sri Lanka.

1990 — Alberto Fujimori takes over as head of government in Peru.

Monday, July 29

1900 — Italy's King Humbert I is assassinated by an anarchist.

1921 — All-India Congress decides to boycott Prince of Wales' visit to India.

1922 — Allied powers issue ultimatum for hiding Greeks to occupy Constantinople (Istanbul).

1937 — Japanese seize Tientsin in China; 18-year-old Crown Prince Farouk is invested as king of Egypt.

1949 — Germany's all-out Blitz against Britain begins in World War II.

1959 — Hawaii votes for first time as one of United States, and elects first orientals to be seated in U.S. Congress.

1973 — Voters in Greece endorse decisions by their leaders to abolish Greek monarchy and install George Papadopoulos as president.

1986 — South Africa's President P.W. Botha rejects British foreign secretary's plea for unconditional release of Nelson Mandela.

1989 — Israeli officials defend abduction of a pro-Iranian Muslim cleric.

1990 — Soviet government acknowledges cigarette shortage throughout the nation.

By the Associated Press

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, July 25

8:30 The Family Man

Tea For Two

At a tea party on Mother's Day, Jack gets the impression that Katy has a crush on him.

9:10 Outlaws

The wife of a villain tries to break away from him with her son — a task too tough for her alone.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

Friday, July 26

8:30 Night Court

Take My Wife, Please

Mack decides to help a Vietnamese woman to obtain the right to permanent residency. It takes marriage and big trouble before that can happen.

9:10 Shakespeare

10:00 News in English

10:20 In The Heat Of The Night

All of a sudden many houses are burnt down. It turns out someone has hired a professional arsonist.

Saturday, July 27

8:30 Kate And Allie

9:00 Encounter

9:30 Classical Music



Jack Kilian (Gary Cole) and Devon King (Wendy Kilbourne) in *Midnight Caller* on Sunday at 10:20

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

The Rawhide Years

Starring: Tony Curtis and Colleen Miller

A classic Western movie about a young gambler who is unjustly accused of a murder, but does not give up.

Sunday, July 28

8:30 Yes Minister

Skeleton In The Cupboard

Sir Humphrey and his assistant hold different views about the public's right to know.

9:10 French Documentary

10:00 News in English

10:20 Midnight Caller

Kid Salinas —

Jack Kilian is now handling

Tuesday, July 30

8:30 Perfect Strangers

The Men Who Knew Too Much

Just when Larry and Palki start practising the photography hobby, fate intervenes against it.

8:55 Museums in Jordan

9:10 Our House

The Children's Crusade

When the past, unexpectedly, knocks on your door — you either ignore it or respond to it — if you ignored it, it will haunt you.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Columbo

A Matter Of Honour

When in Mexico Bullfighting, the national sport, would be a main attraction but not in Columbo's case.

Wednesday, July 31

8:30 Don't Wait Up

Latimer has an injured arm and Felicity helps cure it.

9:10 Silk Route Of The Sea

Across The Golden Peninsula

The Indonesian peninsula and its spice trade have attracted invaders from the East and West.

10:00 News in English

10:20 French Mini Series



Cheers, L.A. Law and Murphy Brown lead Emmy mountain race

By Deborah Hastings
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — NBC's *Cheers* and *L.A. Law* and CBS' *Murphy Brown* have tied with a leading 13 nominations apiece in nominations for awards recognising excellence in American television.

The 43rd annual primetime Emmy Awards nominations also honoured Home Box Office's movie for television, *The Josephine Baker Story*, with 12 nominations, followed by the syndicated series *Star Trek: The Next Generation* with 10.

The nominations were announced by the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences at the organisation's lavish new headquarters in North Hollywood.

The Emmy Awards presentation ceremony will be broadcast live from the Pasadena Civic Auditorium on Aug. 25. Technical awards in 49 categories will be bestowed on Aug. 24 at a taped black-tie banquet.

Voting is done by panels of directors, actors and writers. CBS' *Sarah Plain and Tall* and the live broadcast of the 63rd Annual Academy Awards were next with nine nominations each.

NBC led the networks with 86 bids, followed by ABC with 84 nominations. CBS was third with 69 and Fox, which last year received 26 nominations, received only 11 this time.

There were 328 nominations in 77 categories. Nominated for outstanding drama series were ABC's canceled *China Beach* and *Thirtysomething*. CBS' acclaimed new series *Northern Exposure* was also nominated, as was *Quantum Leap* on NBC and the network's *L.A. Law*, which won last year.

In the outstanding comedy series category, NBC's venerable favourite *Cheers* and *The Golden Girls* were named. CBS' favourites, *Designing Women* and *Murphy Brown*, also were nominated. They were joined by ABC's *The Wonder Years*.

Bids for outstanding lead actress in a comedy series included Delta Burke of *Designing Women*, whose contract with the show was not renewed this year, Blair Brown of the syndicated *The Days and Nights of Molly Dodd*, Kirstie Alley of *Cheers* and last year's winner, Candice Bergen of *Murphy Brown*. Perennial nominee Betty White from *The Golden Girls* was again named.

Ted Danson of *Cheers* was nominated for the male comedy series actor Emmy, followed by Craig T. Nelson of ABC's *Coach*, Burt Reynolds from CBS' *Evening Shade*, Richard Mulligan of NBC's *Empty Nest* and John Goodman from ABC's *Roseanne*.

Peter Falk as ABC's *Columbo* led the list for outstanding lead actor in a drama series. Michael Moriarty of NBC's *Law and Order* and James Earl Jones of ABC's *Gabriel's Fire* also were named, as were Scott Bakula of NBC's time-travelling series *Quantum Leap* and the star of ABC's bizarre and now-canceled *Twin Peaks*, Kyle MacLachlan.

Two of the actresses nominated for outstanding actress in a drama series will be out of work come next season. Dana Delaney of the now-defunct *China Beach* again was nominated for her role as nurse Colleen McMurphy. Patricia Wettig also was named for her portrayal of cancer-stricken Nancy Weston in ABC's *Thirtysomething*, which has been canceled. Sharon Gless of CBS' *The Trials of Rosie O'Neill* and Angela Lansbury of CBS' *Murder, She Wrote* also were named.

In the miniseries or special category, ABC's presentation of *Separate But Equal* received seven nominations, including best actor for Sidney Poitier's depiction of Thurgood Marshall.

By Carrie Figdor
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — There's a small, deep dimple in Lea Salonga's cheek that just about winks when she smiles, which is often. The star of *Miss Saigon* has a lot to smile about.

When her contract for *Miss Saigon* ends next March, the 19-year-old Filipina stage veteran anticipates another career. "It would be nice to try records and all when this is over," said Miss Salonga, an admirer of Paula Abdul, Janet Jackson, and Barbara Streisand.

From a teenager who already has musicals and albums in her home country to her credit, such talk appears realistic. Miss Salonga is both very determined

and very level-headed.

Her voice is strong, pure and sure, six performances a week. It helped her win this season's Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle awards for best actress in a musical.

As Kim, a poor Vietnamese girl who becomes a prostitute in war-torn Saigon and falls in love with an American soldier, she sings in almost every scene of the Broadway hit.

The musical — a retelling of Puccini's *Madame Butterfly* — evades the issue of what Kim does for a living. She

arrives at the brothel a virgin in a long white gown, and goes through a wedding ceremony after she and the soldier, Chris, fall instantly in love. Saigon falls to the North Vietnamese, and the couple is torn apart.

Several scenes later, after she's fled to Bangkok's red-light district, a boy fathered by Chris appears. At the end, as pure in spirit as she was in the first scene, Kim calmly kills herself so the child can be adopted by the now-married Chris and go to the United States without her. "She probably wasn't so

goody two-shoes, because she's very tough," Miss Salonga observes of the character she plays.

Much like Kim, Miss Salonga seems innocent, even prim. She maintains her strict sense of propriety despite her success.

She had done a promotional campaign in the Philippines for "responsible sexual behaviour in teenagers," singing with the pop group Menudo.

She was chosen for the campaign because of her voice — and her reputation. "I was really known in Manila to be antiseptic, clean — has no boyfriend, was hard-working, very disciplined," she said.

It's a reputation she said she still has and doesn't mind having. It also helps that she is "very one-track minded" when it comes to her career. "Keep your goal in mind and just basically work hard to get what you want," she advised. "Don't listen to anybody who says you can't do it."

She was doing *The Fantasticks* in Manila, her hometown, in November 1988 when British producer Cameron Macintosh came looking for someone to play Kim in the London production of the musical.

"My mom at first was reluctant to let me (audition) because she said, 'oh, they're probably fly-by-nights who come into the country and

probably take advantage of young girls,'" Miss Salonga said.

But audition she did, after being assured Macintosh was "for real," and by June 1989, at age 17, Miss Salonga was in rehearsals for what turned out to be London's hit musical of the season.

It took 10 years of hard work to get to Broadway, plus a dash of being "at the right place at the right time," she says.

Her first musical in Manila, at age 7, was *The King and I*. By age 9 she had the starring role in *Annie*. She was also played in *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*.

Miss Salonga is one of the few stars who has been "certified" a unique talent by Actors Equity, the actors guild.

Macintosh also fought for and won the right to have Jonathan Pryce, a Welsh actor, perform the role he created in the London production of *Miss Saigon*, that of the engineer, Kim's opportunistic Eurasian pimp. Some U.S. performers had insisted the role go to an American of Asian ancestry.

Macintosh then battled for Miss Salonga, who was also initially barred from the New York production because Actors Equity wanted Macintosh to use an Asian-American for the role of Kim. "America is supposed to



Willy Falk and Lea Salonga in *Miss Saigon*

Whole lotta shakin' at the Elvis Presley Chinese Restaurant

By Giles Elgood
Reuters

LONDON — Paul Chan serves up blue suede shoes with the sweet and sour pork when he entertains customers at his Elvis Presley Chinese Restaurant.

Chan, 42, is the owner and star attraction at the Grace-lands Palace, a South London eating house named after the Memphis, Tennessee, home of the late king of rock 'n' roll.

When guests have eaten their fill of crispy seaweed and smoked shredded chicken, Hong Kong-born Chan dresses up in an Elvis-style

white and rhinestone-studded suit, turns up the backing music and launches into *Heartbreak Hotel* and other favourites.

"Ladies and gentlemen, it is my great pleasure to introduce to you the man you have all been waiting for — the one and only — the Oriental Elvis — Mr. Paul Chan," he yells as the music thunders and customers shout their approval.

It is a dynamic performance even though he sings a little off-key and only mimes with the guitar which he brandishes as he storms into *Don't Be Cruel* while a sur-

prised passer-by peers in through the glass door from the street.

Ever professional, Chan waits until a break between verses before sprinting to the back of the room to answer the telephone. "I'm busy," he says, lays the receiver on the bar and rips into the next verse.

Chan, who heard his first Elvis record — *Heartbreak Hotel* — when he was 12, started singing in public when he opened his first restaurant three years ago.

"I don't mind if people say I'm crazy. I don't mind if people laugh. The main thing

is that I like Elvis," he said. "No Elvis — no rock and roll."

Mixing rock and roll with Chinese food has proved so successful that he was able to open another restaurant a year ago in the town of Sevenoaks, 30 kilometres away. He sets himself a punishing schedule, singing in both places on the same night.

On Fridays and Saturdays Chan offers special Elvis nights with a set banquet and programme of a dozen of the singer's greatest hits, but he is more than willing to sing seven days a week and often does.

"I want his memory kept alive all the time in my restaurant so I like to sing to my customers and help them remember this superstar. He is the king of rock and roll for ever," Chan said in an interview.

"I like to rock like him, sing like him and dress like him," he said. "My audiences are sometimes a little bit crazy like me. Some of them want to sing by themselves so I just give them the microphone and let them carry on."

One member of a stage-party held at the restaurant decides he wants to have a go.

Flushed with embarrassment, he has to hand back the microphone after failing to remember the words of *Teddy Bear*.

Chan said he never saw Elvis perform on stage but he has made the pilgrimage to Memphis where the overweight and drug addicted singer was found dead in his bathroom in 1977.

The death of Elvis has a big effect on the young Chan, who shaved his head as a token of remembrance for his idol.

"I felt very sad. I couldn't sleep for a week. I didn't eat because my hero died."

World-class films on a shoestring budget

By Jon Miller

MANILA — Nick Deocampo's award-winning films could hardly be more different from the fluff and gore churned out by the three-films-a-week Filipino movie industry. While the mass-market movies are written almost entirely to formula, Deocampo's quirky, low-budget documentaries seem to be invented as they go along. If popular movies are designed to "mesmerise," as Deocampo says, then his are designed to provoke.

Provoke they do. Deocampo's disturbing 50-minute video about recent Philippine history, *A Legacy Of Violence*, was named best documentary at the 1990 International Super 8 and Video Festival in Brussels, Belgium. The festival is the world's largest showcase for independent directors making short, non-commercial films. (A video produced by Oliver Stone, director of *Platoon* and *Wall Street*, finished behind *A Legacy Of Violence* in the voting).

Deocampo's Super 8 trilogy — *Oliver, Children Of The Regime*, and *Revolutions Happen Like Refrains In A Song* — won the grand prize at the same festival in 1987.

"I'd be the first to describe my films as bad," Deocampo laughs from the office he shares with several other film-makers in a converted house. "Technically, they're

awful. But one shouldn't judge only the text, the product. This is where I would make a plea for all Third World art. I don't want to apologise for it, but one should rethink the aesthetics, one should rethink the definition of art, taking into account the process, the context. The text is nothing more than a point of reference that allows us to discuss something."

The animated, talkative 31-year-old graduate of the New York University film school has had better luck bringing that message to foreign audiences than to the estimated 1.2 million Filipinos who crowd the nation's movie houses every day. But Deocampo's international reputation is beginning to make an impact in Manila. He was recently chosen to head the commercial movie industry's own film institute — the only such institute in the country — and he was given a lifetime achievement award by the industry last year, at the youthful age of 30.

It helps that Deocampo is something of a diplomat. Industry leaders know he is less interested in embarrassing the establishment or shocking unsuspecting moviegoers than in gradually creating a space for alternative film on the cultural scene.

"My base is academe, and I am not going to let go of that," Deocampo says

when asked whether he is tempted to tailor his films to more popular tastes. "But I would like to contest the idea that commercial film is really a 'popular' art. It's not. In a certain sense I am very elitist, but so are the people out there who say that commercial film is a mass art. It is not a mass art — only the audience is mass."

That sort of thinking represents a reversal of the traditional view of independent cinema, a view that puts small, inexpensive films on the "fringe." Deocampo says he wants to help return cinema to the people. He claims that in poor countries mass-market movies are "marginalised" — a word normally associated with "art" film and video — because they can only be produced by the small minority that has the money and equipment.

He says he would prefer to see a large number of film-makers producing small, highly focused films than a few studios producing bland imitations of American movies. "I'm really talking about something very intimate, almost like chamber music," he explains. "I'm so disillusioned with the Hollywood big production movies! We can't afford that here. That's not the kind of film-making that we need now. It does not suit the development of this country."

He says he is not concerned by the technical fail-

ings of his own films because content is more important to him. "Deep inside I have this phobia of technology, and I really don't know how I cope," he says. "But I have so much to say. I've seen so much, heard so much, experienced so much, that I guess to a certain extent I triumph over the technology. There's this overwhelming feeling, when you sense that you are empowered by what you know, that you just have to transcend your technological limitations."

Those limitations can be enormous for someone working in a Third World country. Eighty per cent of the footage in *A Legacy Of Violence*, for example, is taken from film archives — "Beggled, borrowed, stolen, whatever," Deocampo says. Only 20 per cent is original, and it consists mostly of shaky, poorly lit, live-action or interview sequences. There is nothing terribly radical about the montage or the style, but the video's energy and its idiosyncratic pacing make it more powerful than a more "professional" production. The total cost of the project was well under \$3,000.

Deocampo is just one of several Filipino film-makers who have caught the attention of the independent film world. Kidlat Tahimik, a 48-year-old former economist, is the best known; he has won several international awards for his comic, meandering, often auto-biographical films.

Raymond Red, a 25-year-old wunderkind, has received rave reviews for his beautifully crafted short films — some impressionistic and abstract, others earthy and humorous.

International recognition has led to a growing local awareness of alternative film, especially in the universities. There have been some advances in the commercial sphere as well. Deocampo, whose documentaries often deal with the role of media and the control of information, is currently working on a television series on gender in the cinema. (His own 1987 film, *Oliver*, about a transvestite night-club performer, has become something of a cult classic on the university circuit). He acknowledges that the move into television will be a big step — a step he is not sure he is ready to take.

He has another big project in mind as well: a narrative movie that will use his own family's history as a mirror for Philippine history. His grandfather witnessed the Filipino revolt against Spain in 1898; his father (an alcoholic who disappeared in 1984) witnessed World War II; and Deocampo himself witnessed (and filmed) the overthrow of the late president, Ferdinand Marcos, in 1986.

"Twenty years of my life were under the Marcos dictatorship," he says when asked to trace his fascination with politics. "That regime coincided with the development



Nick Deocampo has made awards winning documentaries.

of my consciousness, with my development as a human being. It was really difficult. I saw my whole family become sort of dismembered. I thought that maybe it was just my family, but no, it was not. It was really a dismemberment of this whole society."

Deocampo hopes the narrative form — something he has often rebelled against — will allow him to come to terms with that dismemberment. "My idea is to present the story of three generations, interweaving with each other, questioning each other, invalidating each

other, validating each other, loving each other, killing each other," he says. He expects his treatment of the story — which is still taking shape — to be similar in spirit to Dostoyevsky's novel *The Brothers Karamazov* or Akira Kurosawa's film *Rashomon*.

He says he is "energised" by his contact with film-makers in other countries, who are often envious of his access to the abundant dramatic material in the modern Philippines. "I hate to admit it, but artists do thrive in moments of turbulence," he says. "And this is one of

the most disturbing, one of the most turbulent moments of our history."

Deocampo believes film, with its ability to record, shape and comment on history, can provide large numbers of people with alternative ways to see the world. His own acceptance by the local movie industry is an encouraging sign. "At the moment it's just cracks in a wall," he muses. "We hope that eventually the walls will be torn down, and then we can be part of shaping the cultural landscape." — World News Link.

U.S. advisory committee calls for second AIDS drug

BETHESDA, Maryland (AP) — An advisory committee hesitantly approved a recommendation to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that a second drug, Didanosine or DDI, be approved for the treatment of AIDS.

Only one drug, AZT, has been fully approved so far for therapy against AIDS.

The committee voted 5-2 to recommend use of the drug for adults and by the same margin for use in children. Asked by the agency whether approval should be limited to those who cannot tolerate AZT, six voted yes for adults and five voted yes for children.

Representatives of the Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., maker of DDI, told the panel that clinical tests and the experience of limited num-

bers of AIDS sufferers who received the drug show it to be safe and effective.

FDA Commissioner Dr. David A. Kessler said the meeting was a milestone in the drug approval process, since it has been less than 3 months since the company submitted its application for approval. Most drugs take much longer to win a decision.

Members of the committee were clearly uncomfortable with the recommendation. Paul Meier, a professor of statistics at the University of Chicago said, "it seems to me the committee wanted conditional approval ... I don't think we have what the committee really wants."

Dr. Deborah Cotton, an assistant professor of medicine at the Harvard Medical School said the vote was "in a

sense, a rush to judgment."

Dr. Kessler said he would not favor a recommendation with conditions. If the drug does not do what is expected, approval can be withdrawn, the commissioner said.

The FDA has been under heavy pressure in recent years from patient advocacy groups to speed up its often cumbersome process of approving drugs.

"Our goal is to measure time in months for AIDS drugs," Kessler said at the start of the two-day DDI hearing. "We will continue to focus, and focus extensively on AIDS until this dread disease is brought under control."

As of May 31, the Centers for Disease Control said 179,136 Americans had been diagnosed with AIDS, or acquired immune deficiency

syndrome.

AIDS is a viral disease that attacks the body's immune system, leaving victims susceptible to a wide variety of infections and cancers. So far it has always proved fatal.

The drug AZT attacks the virus directly, slowing progress of the disease. It has been approved for use by people who have AIDS or who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus that causes it.

AZT is marketed by the Burroughs Wellcome Co. Barr Laboratories Inc., of Pomona N.Y., is seeking a license to market it also and was granted one by the National Institutes of Health for use if it wins its patent lawsuit against Burroughs Wellcome. Burroughs Wellcome has challenged that action.

Life after AIDS

By Clare Pedrick

FLORENCE, Italy — Michael Gottlieb, the doctor who discovered the deadly virus AIDS, is used to locking horns with the establishment. In the 10 years since, as a young physician and research scientist, he first reported on a mysterious disease that was killing homosexual men in California. Dr. Gottlieb has been in the forefront of campaigns for more research into the malady and less discrimination against its victims. It was he who first published a paper, in June 1981, that alerted the medical world to the existence of the strange virus that attacked the body's immune system, and it was he who persuaded his patient, the movie star Rock Hudson, to tell the truth about the nature of the illness that was to claim the actor's life.

Dr. Gottlieb's link with Hudson, and his outspoken views on a disease that was not considered socially acceptable, made him unpopular with his superiors at the University of California.

His battle to allow the use of the drug AZT on AIDS victims at a time when normal testing procedures were incomplete earned him further reproach. The 43-year-old doctor has long since established his own practice, but he has refused to abandon his forthright style and his demand that governments plough more resources into fighting the disease.

Now he warns that the industrialized world risks being lulled into a false sense of security over the development of the epidemic. And he has called for substantial investment from the northern hemisphere to combat the explosion of AIDS in the developing world. Dr. Gottlieb's words of caution follow the release of a report by the World Health Organization (WHO), which predicts that the disease will reach its peak in the developed world some time during the mid-1990s. WHO presented its findings at an international AIDS conference held in Florence in late June.

'The worst is yet to come'

"(The report) also said that people will continue to die at a high annual level in the industrialized countries throughout the 1990s, but people don't hear that," said Dr. Gottlieb. "But what was picked up in all the papers is the message that in the West, the worst is behind us. In fact, the worst is yet to come."

The worst, both Dr. Gottlieb and WHO agree, will certainly be in the developing world, in sub-Saharan Africa, South and South East Asia, and possibly, at a later stage, in North Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. In Africa, where AIDS is hitting hardest, WHO researchers forecast that by the end of the decade, the death rate will be twice as high as it would have been without the disease and that life expectancy, which would have risen by 10 years, will instead fall by four years. By the year 2000, 10 million adults will have developed the disease worldwide, says the United Nations health organization. Ninety per cent of these will be in the developing world. By the same year, 40 million adults and children worldwide will have been infected with the HIV virus, the preliminary stage to catching the disease itself and developing its deadly symptoms. Once again, the vast majority will be from the poorer nations.

"Although all projections must be interpreted cautiously, there can be no doubt that during the next several decades, AIDS in most developing countries will become the leading cause of death in the most productive years, and will also be one of the leading causes of infant and child mortality," says James Chin, chief of surveil-

ance and AIDS forecasting for WHO.

With his customary directness, Dr. Gottlieb is strongly critical of the way the developed world has so far faced up to that challenge. "The industrialized countries should be spending more on AIDS research, to help themselves and to help the Third World," he said in an interview during the Florence conference. "I think ... the U.S. can afford to spend more than \$3 billion a year on AIDS. That is the current AIDS budget for the whole domestic crisis, and of that, \$1 billion goes for research."

There are 6 million people currently infected (with the HIV virus) in sub-Saharan Africa. By 1995 there will be 10 million and by 2000 there will be 20 million," he added. "The epidemic is about to take off in Latin America and in Thailand ... We have the technology and the means to find a cure and a vaccine. We have the obligation to humanity. In Africa alone, by the year 2000, 500,000 cases a year will be diagnosed. There are also hundreds of thousands of AIDS orphans in Africa, children whose parents have both died of AIDS. There are thousands of babies born each year who are infected by this virus. The U.S. and the Western world cannot in good conscience walk away from this plague."

Dr. Michael Gottlieb was just 32 and fresh out of training in immunology when he made his cataclysmic discovery, back in the summer of 1981, at the laboratories of the University of California at Los Angeles. He had noted the similarity between the cases of five men suffering from an unusual strain of pneumonia, fevers and weight loss. As he delved deeper, he found that all five were homosexual. He began to realize he was on the verge of something big, a disease that was sexually transmitted and which had devastating effects on its victims, all of whom died.

In the early days, there was much confusion about the causes of AIDS. "It was wrongly labeled as a homosexual disease," said Dr. Gottlieb. "The misinterpretation was caused by the fact that at first, the virus claimed its victims among the homosexual population. Later it began spreading to women as well, and to drug addicts of either sex. The disease, doctors soon discovered, was spread through the bloodstream and could be passed on either through sexual contact or by sharing hypodermic needles. It wrought havoc in its victims by destroying the body's immune system, leaving the way open for other potentially fatal illnesses, including cancer, pneumonia, and, in the developing world, tuberculosis."

Although scientists are not sure where the AIDS virus originated, the spread of the disease was first monitored in the U.S. and it rapidly spread to Europe. In the developing world, the disease was slower to make itself felt, but now it is escalating with far greater rapidity than it ever did in the industrialized nations. It is also transmitted in a different fashion, mostly through heterosexual contact. Sexual promiscuity in some areas, lack of education about protection against the disease and generally poor health care have helped it spread like a forest fire out of control, say doctors.

"In the developing world, more than 70 per cent of HIV infections occur in heterosexuals, in people of both sexes," said Dr. Gottlieb. As a result, he said, the virus can rip through a whole family in the space of a very short time, infecting, and ultimately killing, the mother, father and children. Ten million children in the developing world will have been orphaned by AIDS by the year 2000, say WHO forecasts. By the end of the decade, a further 10 million HIV-infected infants will



Dr. Michael Gottlieb

have been born, the virus passed on through the bloodstream by their mothers while the babies were still in the womb.

Studies show that about 50 per cent of people infected with HIV will develop AIDS and die within the space of 10 years. WHO has warned that the spiralling effect of the epidemic in the developing world could have what it describes as "grave consequences for economic and political stability and threaten the very process of development."

South and South East Asia have been pinpointed as the next probable area for a rapid escalation of the AIDS virus. According to what WHO describes as a conservative estimate, the number of HIV cases in that area is currently half a million, but the real figure, says the organization, is probably two to three times higher. The vast majority of those infected are in Thailand and India. Health officials say they fear the epidemic may be about to take off the way it did in Africa during the 1980s. But here, with an adult population of 500 million — more than twice that of sub-Saharan Africa — the potential for damage could be even greater, experts warn.

AIDS threat in the Far East

"The Far East is going to be one of the biggest growth areas," said Dr. Gottlieb. "That's because of the huge populations, the minimal AIDS awareness, and in some cases, the sex industry."

An American doctor who is co-chairman of the Congressional Task Force on International AIDS made the following comment recently: "Take the city of Bombay, which has a population of 12 million. The level of HIV infection among its 100,000 prostitutes has jumped from 1 per cent in 1987 to 30 per cent in 1990. These prostitutes average six contacts per night."

In spite of what Dr. Gottlieb claims are insufficient resources, scientists in the U.S. and Europe are working feverishly to try to develop a cure and a preventative vaccine for AIDS. At least two experimental drugs are currently undergoing clinical trials, and the Florence conference heard of promising research work done by U.S. polio vaccine pioneer Jonas Salk.

U.S. army virologist Robert Redfield, and the controversial French scientist, Daniel Zagury. But to date, only one drug, AZT, is known to have any effectiveness against the disease. It can prolong life and help delay the onset of symptoms, but it is not a cure, and it has toxic side effects that act on the blood and the bone marrow of a patient. Dr. Gottlieb, who has backed demands that trial drugs should be available to AIDS sufferers immediately, says he believes an actual cure is still a long way off. "I think, realistically, it is a 10-year time frame," said the American doctor.

Until that scientific breakthrough is made, he says — and afterwards if it proves to be a costly treatment — public health education and a radical change in behaviour is the only hope for the developing world.

"There has to be specific education on prevention, distribution of condoms, cheap-

ly, with clear communication on how to use them and the teaching of assertiveness for women to insist on using them, easier access to testing ... It is no small task," he said. "There are strong social and cultural taboos against condom use in some societies, but this is a life and death matter. The will to live is basic to all people and I think this can be utilised to change behavior."

"AIDS is a great motivator," he added. "Africa is in sad shape, and in some countries it may be doomsday as far as AIDS is concerned. But in India, China, the Far East and even in Latin America, the infusion of lots of cash and programmes for prevention could make a big difference."

In the ten years he has spent researching AIDS and treating the appalling symptoms of its victims, Dr. Gottlieb has never found a way to shut himself off from the horror of the disease, he says. He has watched hundreds of people die. One of the things he most dreads is having to tell a patient that he has tested positive for the virus, which, sooner or later, will cause his death.

"It's hard," he said. "Doctors become emotionally attached to their patients and frequently deal with a sense of loss and frustration at the primitiveness of the treatments." Dr. Gottlieb tries to set time aside to spend with his wife Wendy, a TV presenter, and Jessica, the couple's 10-month-old daughter, and to pursue other interests to avoid becoming obsessed and depressed by the enormity of the challenge. "I try to look at the joyous side of life — children, the arts, good friends," he said. "The disease and the epidemic are too big for any one person, and there's a risk it could swallow you up if you let it."

Since his discovery ten years ago, the man who came from a modest Brunswick, New Jersey, background has also found himself being catapulted into the limelight and into the world of Hollywood. Dr. Gottlieb became physician to Rock Hudson, the movie star who was the first well-known figure to fall victim to AIDS and whose decision to go public on the cause of his illness, four months before his death in October 1985, is generally acknowledged as having brought the killer disease into the limelight.

Before Hudson died, a visit to his hospital bed by Elizabeth Taylor led to another important chapter in Dr. Gottlieb's life. Together, the doctor and the actress set up the American Foundation for AIDS Research. Starting with a \$250,000 legacy from Hudson's estate, the foundation went on to award \$40 million in research grants to scientists during the next five years.

"People often ask me what it's like to be the man who discovered the modern-day plague," said Dr. Gottlieb. "I reply that if I hadn't discovered AIDS, someone else would have done so very soon afterwards because it was cropping up all over the world. It's a terrible disease, but my discovery of it, and rapid report to the health authorities, hopefully helped save more lives. I certainly changed my life. I think for most researchers there, was life before AIDS, and life after AIDS. AIDS is now a fact of life." — World News Link.

U.S. panel unconvinced that Alzheimer's drug effective

By W. Dale Nelson
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The first drug to be proposed for approval for treatment of Alzheimer's disease has failed to win the endorsement of an advisory panel to the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The panel, by an 8-0 vote, adopted instead a statement saying the tests made to date were "an insufficient demonstration of clinical effectiveness" of the drug Tacrine.

The panel left open the question of whether the FDA should permit patients to have access to the drug while its safety and efficacy are tested further.

An FDA regulation permits such access when tests are inconclusive but a drug shows promise of being effective.

Warner-Lambert Co., which wants to market the drug under the name Cognex, proposed to make it available to approximately 50,000 patients, who would be enrolled at a rate of approximately 10,000 a month.

The company said the programme would be limited to patients with mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease.

Members of the advisory panel said any such programme should be accompanied by expanded testing to determine the efficacy of the drug.

There was no immediate comment from the company.

Earlier, Ronald M. Cresswell, Warner-Lambert vice president, told the panel that clinical trials at 16 university hospitals showed clear improvement in patients.

Members of the panel said the tests showed moderate improve-

ment in one measurement, which examined patients' ability to recall words, but failed to show any improvement in another measurement based on an objective evaluation by doctors.

Alzheimer's disease is the fourth largest cause of death among American adults, killing more than 100,000 annually. About four million persons in the United States are thought to be afflicted.

The disease causes a slow deterioration of mental functions, such as memory. Eventually patients lose control of body functions, become unable to care for themselves and then die.

The clinical trials sponsored by Warner-Lambert were suspended at one point when liver damage was detected in a number of patients being treated with Tacrine. They were resumed

later at a reduced level of dosage.

Panel members said tests of larger doses are needed to determine the drug's effectiveness.

The drug works by blocking the breakdown of a chemical in the brain.

Dr. Willis Maddrey, vice president for clinical affairs at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre in Dallas, told the panel that the drug has toxic effects, particularly for elderly women, but they are "reversible."

"There have been no deaths and I know of only one case of jaundice" among test patients, Mr. Maddrey said.

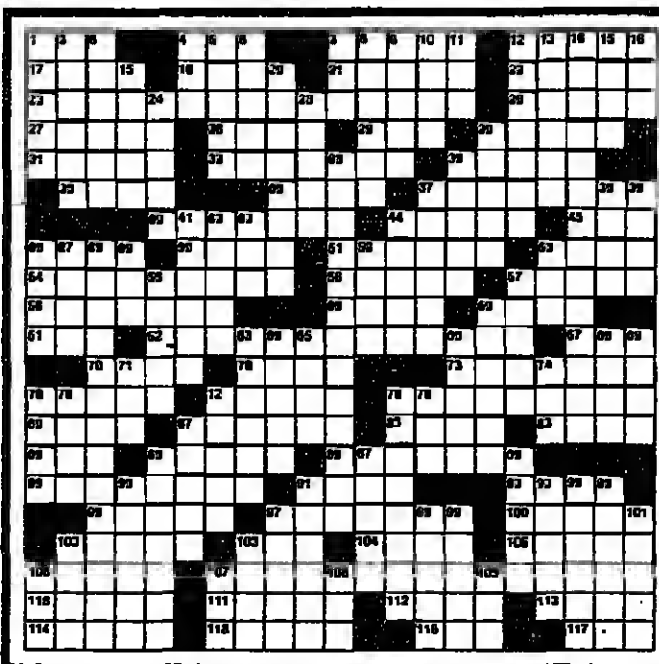
He said that if the Warner-Lambert programme was properly carried out he thought "the chances of anyone dying or being irreparably hurt are minimal."

Weekend Crossword

THE MEN
By Harvey L. Chaw

- ACROSS
1. Suffer
4. To be to
7. Describe
12. Vowel sound
13. Pass over
15. Pairs
21. Susan Lucci role
22. Star section
23. Miss O'F
24. Boyfriend
25. Musical composition
27. Address papers
28. Mrs. Chaglin
29. Matched
30. A.Z. nettle
31. Ostrich's capital
32. Overwhelmed
34. Thomas or Joyce

35. Military vessels
36. Digits
37. Chintress
40. Two
44. Drove or Midler
45. Socks
46. Poland's Walesa
50. Heavyweight
51. John or Yes of
51. Printing mistakes
53. Mar's car
54. Supporters
55. Turbulence
57. Half-of-Farmer
58. Perseus
59. In the dark
60. Indonesian lake
61. Patriotic pp.
62. Anthony Quinn film

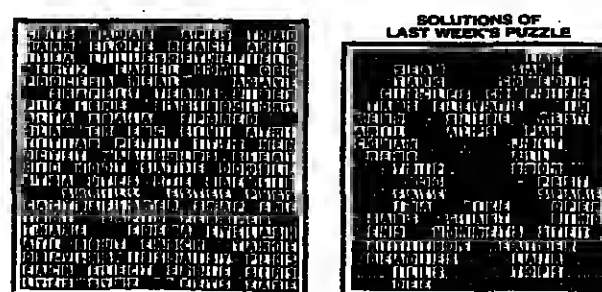


Last Week's Cryptograms

- So, when we are rash, it is then up to us to get up or shut up.
- Only a shrewd lady could win a futuristic fashion show wrapped in yesterday's drapery.
- One beginner's knitting, like a model mystery, was a sly tangled web.
- A dieter tries hard; proud to shed one pound.

CRYPTOGRAMS

- 20XIBUZZ KWLBUZZ YAONVZY PUXWKU
MALUBUZZER BAZY EG MOVU ZMALLBGV
KWB'Z POZE LWNIEGY ZAY. —By Lois E. Jones
- 5FGFTUI PUEL KMNDDE NT JIFFZ DNT
BPCUAB BNIGMAS JTLOKNSTUCB: U. M.
KRUK IMKEIF. —By Ed Heddlestone
- PLUJIBO PETERHO JIMBO: SHURNT
SLYCUARNN ZNNCNB BURNT AMM MA
TUBZ UAT TBYRHO KYTAPLI JCBNN. —By Eugene T. Malaska
- VSWOS: PBSTA DONC PEG ADO MYW NEW
VX CYXWVSY T MVG. —By Norton Rhodes



SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

King stresses need for joint action

(Continued from page 1)

and the current efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem.

"My mission now is... to restore confidence and stability in relations among the Arab family and this is one of the issues on the agenda of talks in Jordan," Dr. Abdul Meguid said last week.

Dr. Abdul Meguid has visited Syria and Lebanon already.

Dr. Abdul Meguid also said he hoped a Middle East peace conference would open soon and said the league was ready to take part if asked.

U.S. Secretary of State James

Baker has won the support of key Arab states for Washington's plans for a conference. Israel is expected to reply to his proposals soon.

"The league is ready to take part in the conference if this is the desire of all participating countries especially since the goals of the conference are the same goals the league has been trying to achieve," said Dr. Abdul Meguid.

He arrived in Amman Wednesday as part of a tour to try and heal inter-Arab rifts caused by the Gulf crisis and help promote an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Row in House over peace process

(Continued from page 1)

Environment Minister Salim Zu'bi joined Mr. Tarawneh and affirmed that "there are ministers in this government who are against peace talks."

Mr. Masri, who had tried to take the floor ahead of the two ministers, then requested to be heard. He reiterated his government's commitment to the principles which the Kingdom adhered to since 1967 when Israel occupied the West Bank.

"The cabinet had presented the House with its policy statement in which it stressed the principles of the Kingdom's policies and has adhered to these principles in spirit and text," Mr. Masri said.

He promised the House that he would brief them on the details of the Jordanian talks with Mr. Baker in a closed meeting. He asked that the discussions over this issue be closed.

Sources later told the Jordan Times that the row was carried out into the corridors of the chamber of deputies but was solved amicably.

The parliament sources said also that the two ministers were upset by Speaker Abdul Latif

Arabiyyat's handling of the discussions in the House and were angered by "his obvious bias for his movement's deputies in the House."

The sources added that the two ministers later met with the other cabinet members and discussed Wednesday's row.

Other observers said that the two ministers were unable to see any shift in their position vis-a-vis the Palestinian issue and "acted on impulse against the accusations."

"Both Mr. Tarawneh and Mr. Zu'bi are well-known activists who have spent years in jail because they were anti-establishment. It takes some time before they can adapt to their new-found roles," one independent deputy commented.

Others blamed Muslim Brotherhood deputies for throwing accusations before they were privy to the details of the Jordanian talks with Mr. Baker.

"It is almost as if they come to Parliament prepared to create a fight before they even know all the facts. Perhaps this is how democracy works," was the dry comment of another independent deputy.

Israel optimistic over peace talks

(Continued from page 1)

and its Arab neighbours into talks under which Israel would trade occupied Arab land for peace.

Syria hopeful

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa said he hoped Israel would drop objections to the talks could take place soon.

"We hope at this stage, after U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's latest tour of the region, that the conference will be held as soon as possible," Mr. Sharaa told reporters.

"The positive Syrian response... has confused the leaders of Israel and thrown them into contradictions because they now realise that the proposed peace conference means that their 'nos' will fall one after the other," Mr. Sharaa said.

Mr. Sharaa avoided a direct reply when asked about the call by President Mubarak for Israel to stop building settlements in the occupied territories in exchange for the lifting of an Arab economic boycott.

"We in Syria... consider the settlements in occupied Arab territories illegal and contradictory with U.N. Security Council resolutions, hence they are a major obstacle to peace," Mr. Sharaa said.

Mr. Sharaa said Israel's refusal

to stop building settlements showed it was not serious about peace. "The Israeli rejection shows clearly of course the lack of an intention to move towards a just and comprehensive peace in the region," he said.

Kaddoumi meets Jibril

In Damascus, Farouq Kaddoumi, head of the Political Department of the PLO, conferred Wednesday with dissident Palestinian leaders in a bid to close ranks.

Attending the meeting were Ahmad Jibril, secretary-general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, his deputy Tala' Naj, and Abdul Mohsen Abu Maizar, a former PLO spokesman.

It was the first time that such a ranking aide to Mr. Arafat has met with these Syrian-backed leaders who split from PLO ranks in 1983.

"It was constructive. Our views were identical" towards the peace process, Mr. Jibril said after the meeting. He said he was assured by Mr. Kaddoumi that the PLO did not intend to accept that any Arab delegation to the proposed peace conference speak for the Palestinians.

"This is an irreversible decision. It's a red line," Mr. Jibril added.

New 'fun' party rocks Swedish political life

By Lars Foyen
Reuters

STOCKHOLM — An eccentric aristocrat and a pop music publisher have shaken Sweden's staid political establishment with a populist movement that aims to make life "simpler, cheaper and more fun."

Founded only six months ago, the New Democracy Party is already polling about 10 per cent in opinion surveys as Sweden heads for general elections on Sept. 15.

"We are witnessing a typical Swedish revolution. It is a polite process, but the message is clear: the people want a new system," party leader and businessman Count Jan Wachtmeister said in an interview.

New Democracy wants to make life simpler by, for instance, abolishing traffic wardens, more fun by easing the tough alcohol laws and cheaper by lowering taxes and privatising much of the social welfare system, one of the most extensive in the world.

It also wants Sweden to establish military ties with the West instead of being neutral, and to tighten up immigration policies.

Swedish politicians have reacted with horror at Mr. Count Wachtmeister and his party's co-founder Bert Karlsson.

Name-calling is rife. The media have dubbed the pair "the mad count and the hutter."

Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson, a Social Democrat, has described them as "rightist imbeciles."

Foreign Minister Sten Andersson recently called them "Frankenstein's monster," to which Mr. Count Wachtmeister responded: "Andersson must have seen Bert early one morning."

Mr. Count Wachtmeister, 58, is a practical joker. He once dressed as an air hostess to serve drinks at a birthday party aboard an airliner.

Mr. Karlsson, 46, founded his own record company and epitomises the self-made millionaire. For years he has stirred controversy with his provocative views aired on television chat shows.

Sweden's hidebound political scene has had no place for populists until now.

The Social Democrats have been in power for more than half a century, usually with the support of the small Communist Party. The Conservative Moderate Party, the Liberal Party and the Agrarian Centre Party have provided the opposition.

But a dramatic drop in opinion poll support for the Social Democrats — down to about 30 per cent from 43 per cent at the 1988 elections — and a surge to some 10 per cent for the Christian Democrats are seen as signs that voters are tired of the old order.

Mr. Count Wachtmeister sees his early success partly as a protest against a dull and out-of-touch political establishment which "debates marginal policy differences in a language nobody understands."

Political scientists also cite disenchantment with Sweden's cradle-to-grave welfare state and

some of the highest taxation levels in the world.

"It's a vote against bureaucracy and for individual freedom," said Mr. Count Wachtmeister, who thinks the popular uprising against Communism in Eastern Europe inspired Swedes to support his low-key revolt.

The central Stockholm office which doubles as headquarters for the New Democracy Party and Mr. Count Wachtmeister's company group, the empire AB, reflects the eccentric style of the Count — a tall, slim, balding man who likes very loud ties.

Fine antiques mix with amusing bric-a-brac and Marilyn Monroe posters. Visitors are invited to sit in a gilded throne-like chair opposite his desk.

Mr. Count Wachtmeister, a former director in the blue-chip Electrolux household appliance group and author of two critical books on Swedish politics, talks plainly on complex issues:

"It wouldn't be a massacre of the people's welfare, only of the bureaucrats," he said of the party's proposal to cut taxes to 46 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) from the current 56 per cent over a six-year period.

"Traffic wardens do nothing but harass people. Let's bring back the old-fashioned neighbourhood cop and let him enforce parking laws when absolutely necessary. As a bonus ordinary people could walk the streets safely again," Mr. Count Wachtmeister said.

On alcohol, sold only in state-run shops and taxed so heavily that one beer can cost up to \$10 in a restaurant, the party wants to cut prices and liberalise sales.

"With lower prices, people would go out more and there would be less loneliness," he said.

Rival Swedish politicians hope, and many pundits expect, that support for the new party will wane to below the four per cent threshold for entering parliament as election day approaches.

10 years on, Charles and Diana are no fairy tale couple

By Anne Senior
Reuters

LONDON — Their wedding was a royal fairy tale played out before a world audience. A lonely prince wooed and won his beautiful bride and their happiness was sealed by a lingering kiss on the balcony of Buckingham Palace.

Ten years on, Prince Charles and his wife Diana make no secret of going their separate ways, and may not even get together for their wedding anniversary on July 29.

The apparent coolness between them has set tongues wagging and imaginations racing about the relationship on which the future of Britain's monarchy may depend.

Could the heir to the throne and his wife see the dream marriage which began with a lavish ceremony in St Paul's Cathedral end up in the divorce courts?

Or is their restrained relationship a sign of a marriage which has little need for romantic gestures?

The nation's interest in the love lives of their future king and queen is not entirely voyeuristic. If the marriage failed the monarchy could be plunged into its biggest crisis since Edward VIII gave up his throne to marry an American divorcee, Wallis Simpson, in 1936.

It would be the most painful royal divorce scandal since the 16th century, when Henry VIII took the drastic step of breaking with the Roman Catholic Church to end his marriage to the first of his six wives, Catherine of Aragon.

As gossips chatter, the prince and princess stay smiling and inscrutable as ever behind the serried ranks of their aides and courtiers, de-

fying efforts to dissect their marriage.

Professional royal-watchers fall into two camps in the great marriage debate.

The tabloid writers have mostly opted for the crisis theory. "Yes there is a problem between Charles and Diana," says palace aide, "the Daily Mirror told its readers after revelations that Princess Diana had turned down her husband's offer of a party to celebrate her 30th birthday on July 1."

Biographers, however, take a more positive view.

"There is no doubt that their union is strong and permanent and they love one another deeply, no longer so passionately as they did when they were honeymooners but with the familiarity of two horses who have spent 10 years in harness," wrote Penny Junor in her new book Charles and Diana.

In *A Princely Marriage*, Anthony Holden concludes the couple went through a crisis four years ago and have since achieved a stable, workable relationship in which both have the freedom to pursue their own interests.

Prince Charles, 32 years older than his wife, mixes with an intellectual crowd of his own age and likes to tend his garden at the couple's country home, Princess Diana is busy with the children's charities she heads and spends more time in London, where her younger son Harry, 6, is a pupil at a day school.

The princess, only 20 when she married, has grown confident in public and undertakes more solo engagements than before.

The latest rumours were sparked by the prince's conspicuous absence on his



The Prince and Princess of Wales

wife's birthday and a report by gossip columnist Nigel Dempster that Princess Diana had rejected her husband's birthday party idea. The inside information was said to have come from friends of the prince angered by the bad press he was getting.

Even *The Independent* on Sunday, which along with its sister paper *The Independent* usually avoids royal gossip, was drawn into the debate, sensing a big story in the making.

"The thought evoked by the Dempster piece is that Prince Charles may be trying to tarnish his wife's reputation as a prelude to divorce," columnist Lynn Barber wrote.

"Charles's marriage to Lady Diana Spencer was the most popular move he ever made if he now decides to divorce her it is impossible to imagine how he will repair the damage."

The *Spectator* magazine accused the press of hounding the prince and princess "in an unremitting way that would have damaged even the most serene partnership."

In the past princes could take a mistress or two if they

tired of the wife chosen for them by their advisers. But since the Victorian age the royal family has been expected to set a moral example to the nation.

It has become acceptable for a minor royal to get a divorce but Queen Elizabeth would be unlikely to sanction a split between her eldest son and his popular wife. Courtiers say privately a divorce is quite out of the question.

Both prince and princess are said to be acutely aware of the importance of making their marriage work, not only for their two young sons William and Harry, but for the very institution of royalty.

After the fuss over Princess Diana's birthday, the couple appeared in public together at a charity dinner and the paparazzi reported delightedly they had called each other "darling".

All eyes are now on the royal diary to see if Prince Charles and Princess Diana are together for their 10th anniversary, or in different parts of the country. There may yet be news of a party but Buckingham Palace says there are no special plans for one.

Millions are suffering from work-related stress

By Jane E. Brody

NEW YORK — Do you come home from work physically or emotionally drained with little energy or enthusiasm left for dealing with family or personal matters?

Do you find it hard to get out of bed in the morning knowing what you face at work that day? Do you often suffer from headaches, backaches, digestive upsets or insomnia that you trace to stress at work?

Have you noticed that you are drinking too much alcohol, smoking too many cigarettes, or becoming dependent on drugs that pep you up or help you sleep?

You may be among tens of millions of workers who are suffering from job-related stress, a problem far more common than either workers or their employers realise.

At a time when many people are suffering the effects of unemployment, it may seem inappropriate to talk about stress on the job.

But as a recent U.S. survey revealed, cutbacks in personnel and shrinking employee benefits are major contributors to what the survey researchers called a national epidemic of job stress.

Among a random sample of 600 full-time American workers in all types of jobs, 72 per cent said they suffered from three or more stress-related conditions very often or somewhat often.

These include exhaustion, anger or anxiety, muscle pain, headaches, insomnia and gastrointestinal disorders. Some workers were often beset by as many as eight or more stress-related ailments.

The growing problem of job

stress also exacts a toll on employers by increasing job turnover and absenteeism and decreasing productivity.

Seven of 10 workers surveyed said that excessive job stress was cutting into their productivity, and nearly one in five said they missed one or more days of work last year because of workplace stress.

Fully one-third seriously considered quitting last year to reduce their stress, and 14 per cent actually did quit or change jobs within the past two years because of workplace stress. Furthermore, 35 per cent of new employees said they had left their previous jobs because of stress. Many of the stressed-out employees who stayed on the job presumably functioned at less than an ideal level.

A dozen major causes of job

stress were identified through the survey, which was conducted for an insurance company last January and February by N.K. Friedrichs & Associates, an independent research company in Minneapolis.

The surveyors interviewed a representative sample of 600 American full-time adult workers who are not self-employed. The survey had a margin of sampling error of plus or minus four percentage points.

The researchers said they were surprised to discover that a hiring freeze and forced time off without pay, common in the recession, did not significantly increase worker burnout.

But three of the four leading factors related to burnout involved changes typical of current economic conditions: a substan-

tial reduction in employee benefits; merger, acquisition or a change of company ownership, and a reduction in the size of the work force or elimination of positions at the company.

The leading identified cause of burnout — "little personal control allowed" in doing one's job — is prevalent at all times, irrespective of the economy.

Other factors associated with burnout and an increased likelihood of suffering stress-related illnesses included major departmental reorganisations and frequent requirements for overtime work.

More than half the workers suffering burnout said their employer did not have supportive work and family policies and did not have effective lines of communication with management. — The New York Times.

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Sampras, Chang upset at Canadian Open

MONTREAL (R) — A pair of unheralded, unseeded upstarts sent seeded Americans Pete Sampras and Michael Chang to early exits at the \$1.2 million Canadian Open Tennis Tournament.

Fifth seed Chang failed in his quest to defend his title when he fell to 103rd-ranked Italian Stefano Pescosolido 7-6, 3-6, 6-3 in a second round match.

Sampras, seeded fourth, squandered three match points, losing a dramatic third set tiebreak 10-8 to 91st-ranked Shuzo Matsuoka of Japan, who downed the U.S. Open Champion 2-6, 6-4, 7-6.

Both Sampras and Chang were playing their first matches after receiving first round byes.

Top seed Ivan Lendl, French Open champion Jim Courier, Andre Agassi and John McEnroe

are scheduled to play second round matches Wednesday.

The 11th-ranked Chang looked uncharacteristically listless against Pescosolido.

"Today was kind of a difficult day," said Chang, who has not won a tournament since this event last year. "I was making so many unforced errors. I didn't feel at all comfortable out there."

Chang sprayed shots wide and long throughout the two hour 13 minute match. Although the American was able to take the second set on three service breaks, Pescosolido, who jumped out to a 4-0 third set lead, always appeared in control.

Matsuoka simply refused to yield to the hard-serving ninth-ranked Sampras.

After Sampras easily won the

opening set, Matsuoka began a valiant fight. He sent the match to a third set with a single second set service break in the third game.

Matsuoka saved two match points in the 10th game and the struggle came down to a final set tiebreak.

The Tokyo native squandered a match point of his own when he hit a forehand long at 6-5. But after saving another match point, Matsuoka drilled his second ace of the tiebreak at 9-8 and left in the air as he received a standing ovation.

"In the past, I'd always find a way to lose to a good player," said Matsuoka. "Today, it looked like it would be the same thing. He had match point. But I told myself, 'I can do it,' and that was it."

Top-seeded Spain also won its first-round match Tuesday, elimi-

U.S., Spain and U.K. advance to 2nd round of Federation Cup

NOTTINGHAM, England (AP) — Zina Garrison regrouped during a rain delay to finish off Nicole Pietrangeli 7-5, 6-4, starting the U.S. team on its way to first-round victory Tuesday over the Netherlands in the Federation Cup.

Jennifer Capriati sent the United States on to the second round by beating Manon Bollegraf 6-2, 6-3. The doubles portion of the match was cancelled because of darkness.

"I don't think you ever get used to the rain," said Garrison, who closed out her match by winning four straight games after the interruption. "You learn to deal with it, but you never get used to it."

Top-seeded Spain also won its first-round match Tuesday, elimi-

nating Belgium with victories by Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Conchita Martinez. Steffi Graf and Anke Huber led German to victory over Greece.

Other teams reaching the second round were Britain, Switzerland, Austria and Czechoslovakia.

Garrison fought off a set point in the first set and suffered bouts of wildness throughout most of the match. She trailed 4-2 in the second set and had just opened the seventh game with a double fault when the rain began.

"It was just a little bit tentative," said the 1990 Wimbledon finalist. "During the rain delay, (U.S. captain) Marty (Riessen) told me to go out and attack, and it worked."

Garrison, who has experienced many rain delays during nine years at Wimbledon, returned from the break to win 16 of 22

points to complete the victory.

The rain was only one of the distractions on a dark, windy day. Freight trains repeatedly rolled by on tracks adjacent to the tennis complex, and a brass band played excerpts from "Carmen" during Capriati's match.

"I had trouble keeping my rhythm," said Capriati, whose match was punctuated by the band's crashing cymbals a few hundred yards away.

Riessen said he was just glad to be in Wednesday's second round, in which the United States faces the Maleeva sisters of Bulgaria. Katerina and Magdalena Maleeva are the stars for Bulgaria, a team coached by their mother.

"I think the first round is always difficult," Riessen said. "It's always good to get through the first one and get used to the conditions."

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

N. Korea, Iran log wins in Asian club soccer

DHAKA (AP) — North Korea's April 25 Club and the Esteghal Club from Iran forged ahead Tuesday in the 10th Asian Club Championship '90 Soccer Tournament. April 25 Club beat Thailand's Bangkok Bank Club 4-3 in the first of two matches played in the rain-soaked Dhaka Stadium. The Esteghal Club, hot favorites in the championship, drew 1-1 with Bangladesh's Mohammedans Club. But the Mohammedans, who had only two points from two previously drawn matches, were edged out of the tournament having gained three points in all. The Iranian team, which had four points from two previously won matches, now has a points tally of five. At the end of half time, Bangladesh was leading by a solitary goal scored in the 26th minute. The Iranians equalized in the 66th minute.

Foreman to fight Pultz on Sept. 7

LAS VEGAS (AP) — George Foreman will fight Boone Pultz on Sept. 7 in Nassau, the Bahamas, in his first bout since his unsuccessful bid for the undisputed heavyweight championship. The 10-round match will be part of an HBO-Television doubleheader from the Queen Elizabeth Sports Centre, Bob Arum, president of Top Rank, Inc., announced Tuesday. Rafael Pineda of Colombia will fight Roger Mayweather of Las Vegas in a 12-round bout for the vacant International Boxing Federation junior welterweight title. The Foreman-Pultz fight originally was set for Sept. 7 at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. It appeared it would be a tuncup for the 42-year-old Foreman for a rematch against champion Evander Holyfield, who outpointed him on April 19, but then Holyfield signed to defend against Mike Tyson on Nov. 8 at Caesars Palace. Foreman and Arum, who would have been involved in the rematch, as in the first fight, have sued Holyfield, his promoter, Dan Duva, and manager Shelly Finkel, for \$100 million.

Maradona ordered held

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — A federal judge has ordered preventive detention for Diego Maradona, but it's unlikely the soccer star will spend time in jail. The ruling by Judge Amelia Berraz de Vidal was technical. Earlier, she freed Maradona on \$20,000 bail. "The decision does not imply the deprivation of liberty for Maradona," the Argentine News Agency (Telam) reported. Maradona, 30, was arrested in April and charged with possession of drugs and distributing small amounts free of charge. He was detained with two friends. Maradona's urine analysis tested positive for cocaine. Weeks earlier, the captain of Argentina's national team and Napoli was suspended from soccer after testing positive for cocaine use following an Italian league match. The suspension runs through the end of the 1991-92 season. He has not yet said if he intends to return to professional soccer. Maradona is undergoing treatment and counseling for drug abuse.

Brugera advances at Dutch Open

HILVERSUM, Netherlands (AP) — Top-seeded Spaniard Sergi

Brugera and the other seeded players defeated their opponents with ease Tuesday to advance to the second round of the \$250,000 Dutch Open. Brugera, ranked eighth in the world by the Association of Tennis Professionals, trounced Diego Perez from Uruguay 6-4, 6-4 on the clay courts. No. 2-seeded Karel Novacek of Czechoslovakia overcame a sluggish start to beat Argentine Alberto Mancini 5-7, 6-3, 6-1. But decisive wins were scored by Italian Omar Camporese and Austrian Horst Skoff in this tournament being held at the Melkhuise Tennis Centre in this Amsterdam suburb. Skoff, the No. 6 seed, beat Dutchman Jacco Eltingh 6-4, 6-3 while eighth-seeded Camporese beat Argentinian Martin Jaito 6-1, 6-3.

Ottey improves 1991 sprint best

VIGO, Spain (R) — Jamaican Merlene Ottey improved her 1991 world best 100 metres time here Tuesday by romping to victory in 10.79 seconds. She clipped 0.05 of a second off the time she set in Lausanne, Switzerland on July 10. Tony Dees edged out fellow American Greg Foster to win the 100 metres hurdles in a 1991 world best 13.05. Foster set the previous best mark of 13.11 in Finland earlier this month. Brazilian Jose Luis Barbosa ran the fastest 800 metres of the year in one minute 43.87 seconds. England's Peter Elliot scored a decisive victory in the 1,500 metres, finishing in 3:33.78, with second-place Jose Luis Gonzalez of Spain more than three seconds behind.

Armenian fans huri rocks at Moscow team

MOSCOW (R) — Armenian soccer fans pelted a visiting Moscow team with rocks and bottles and besieged players in their dressing room for two hours, a Soviet newspaper reported Tuesday. The visitors only got free after baton-wielding police and high-powered water jets dispersed the crowd. Sovetsky Sport, disclosing details of the violence at Yerevan's Hrazdan stadium on July 19, said fans began throwing missiles at the team's reserve bench five minutes from the end of the league match, in which CSKA from Moscow beat local side Ararat 1-0. "The bombardment was so intense that for 30 minutes after the match we were unable to move out from under the stand protecting the coaches' and reserve benches," CSKA coach Pavel Sadyrin told the daily. "Then for more two hours, we sat locked in our dressing room. The windows were smashed by paving stones." Sadyrin said fans were dispersed by water cannon and police wielding truncheons and his team was quickly flown out of Yerevan aboard a charter flight.

Yugoslav soccer season may be delayed

BELGRADE (R) — The Yugoslav soccer season, due to open on Aug. 3, is likely to start late because of political unrest in the country. "The final decision will be made at the Yugoslav Soccer Federation (YSF) presidency meeting on July 26 but it looks likely that the league will start late," Ante Pavlovic, the YSF's general secretary said. Three of the opening league matches are due to be played between Serbian and Croatian teams. "In the circumstances, starting (as scheduled) might be both dangerous and inappropriate," Pavlovic said.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY JULY 25, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Strange conditions with a partner can cause some untoward unexpected and dramatic event to unfold but since the aspects are positive the long term effects will be positive and beneficial.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You now have all kinds of opportunities by communicating with those at a distance and getting their ideas for advancing toward newer outlets.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) There are a considerable number of promises you have made that require you use your talents for perfection in details so live in these regions now.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your partners can see eye to eye with you but one of your family or an influential person can put a cog in your wheel of progress but be firm.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) There are many projects for you to do and you had best get busy and do it yourself or you lose a valuable ally who can help you.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Forget those money worries and concentrate upon relieving yourself of the dreary drudgeries that have been present by some congenial companions.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Take some time out now to do what your family expects of you and you can find some things for

the home and establish more happiness there.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Think over that plan a usual ally has presented to you and see what you can do to make it workable instead of fuming over some fancied slight.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You now have it in your power to find some new sources of revenue but be sure you are not so engaged in social affairs you miss some new opportunity.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your own new ideas are just great now and you can spend your time going after what you want the most but be sure also you do avoid an argument with a prominent person.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) There are a number of private matters to be worked out and solved by you today before you can get off to those interesting new outlets that attract you.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Whatever causes you to feel tied down is not very good and you are able to use all spare moments with good friends who understand your need for more sociability.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is the time when whatever means much to you should be in the outside world of civic or career conditions instead of trying to please a demanding person.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY JULY 26, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The full Moon and lunar Eclipse make a somewhat peculiar day when it is no time to take chances or to break-up any presently existing conditions that is affording you some benefit.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A good morning to get some new ideas how to advance your interests and then the evening is great for going directly to a practical person can help you.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Go to some expert who can help you solve your most important problem after which you are able to get out in the world to make new conquests.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your interest in carrying through with discussions a partner is involved in is fine after which you can attend to your part of any agreement.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You now find that you have a considerable amount of work to do so get it behind you and then you can consult with allies about new arrangements.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can arrange parties, recreations early after which you a considerable number of assignments to do so you can have everything in order.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A day to handle those basic

interests that require your undivided attention so handle family, property matters and then be off for a fun evening.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Whatever is required that will get everything just right is fine this day so go out in the world and accomplish this after which enjoy your own home.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Now you are able to find the various money matters to be handled early after which he sure you get off to see congenial and compatible friends.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Whatever you want to decide about, do so in the morning after which you are able to get at those practical and financial and get them behind you.

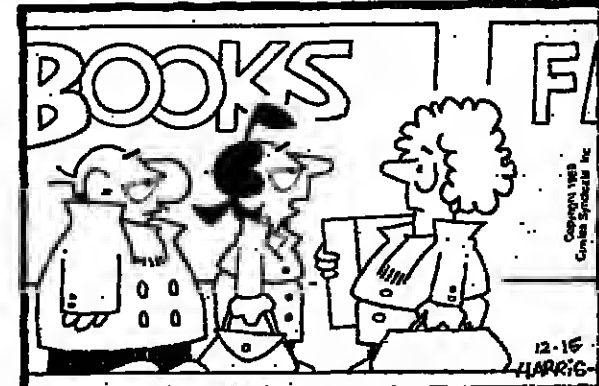
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Carefully plan this morning exactly what you want to do and keep it confidential, then tonight finds you able to put in effect with ease.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A good friend gives you some excellent suggestions for more contact with those you like this morning, then you are able to do your part.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is the moment for you to do whatever requires contact with those in a high position early after which get together with good friends and enjoy yourselves.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

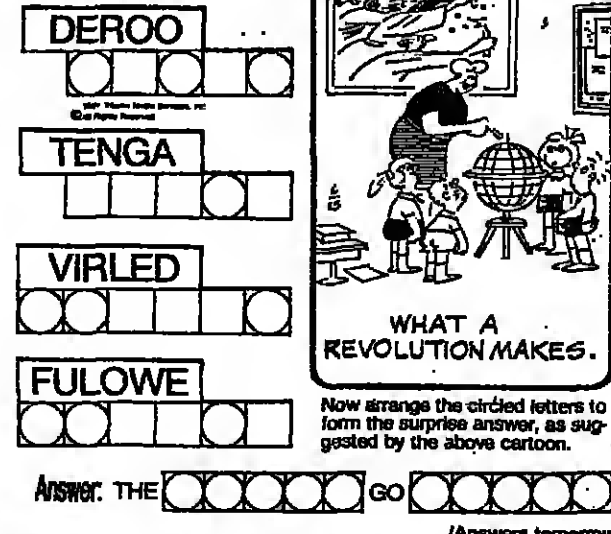


"Stanley can't go in the pet store. Somebody thought he was a cross between a St. Bernard and a basset hound."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Yesterday's Jumbles: WEARY SHEAF HUNTER CHISEL. Answer: A good poker player conceals the kind of hand he has by the kind of face -- HE HASN'T

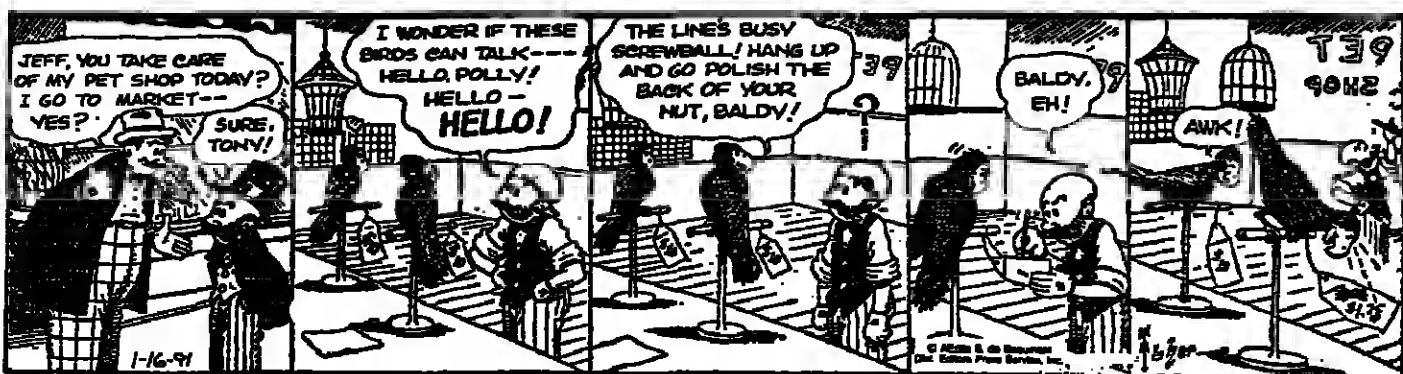
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Amman- Rio De Janeiro
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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMARA HIRSCH
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AQ84 ♣AKS ♠J1064

The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?
A.—An already good hand has become even more powerful because of the flitting cards in partner's suits. Since slam could be in the offing, make a waiting bid of two diamonds to see what partner does next. There is no rush to make a bee-line for three no trump until other possibilities have been explored.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A7 ♠AQ8 ♠83 ♠AKJ987

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?
A.—While we are not averse to rusing partner with three-card support, we do not jump-raise without four-card support. Therefore, we must suppress our hearts for the moment in favor of the jump rebid of three clubs.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Void ♠9873 ♠AQ102 ♠K954

The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?
A.—You have what might be a very powerful hand in support of partner's two-level overcall. Since no club jump is quite satisfactory,

we suggest a cue-bid of the enemy suit. Bid two diamonds.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KQ108 ♠Q95 ♠AQ83 ♠AK

Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one diamond. What action do you take?

A.—You are far too strong for an overall of one no trump—the upper limit for that bid should be a bad 19 points. The way to describe this balanced powerhouse is to start with a takeout double and, unless your partner bids spades in response, rebid no trump at your next turn.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠7643 ♠8542 ♠AJ10 ♠A2

Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?

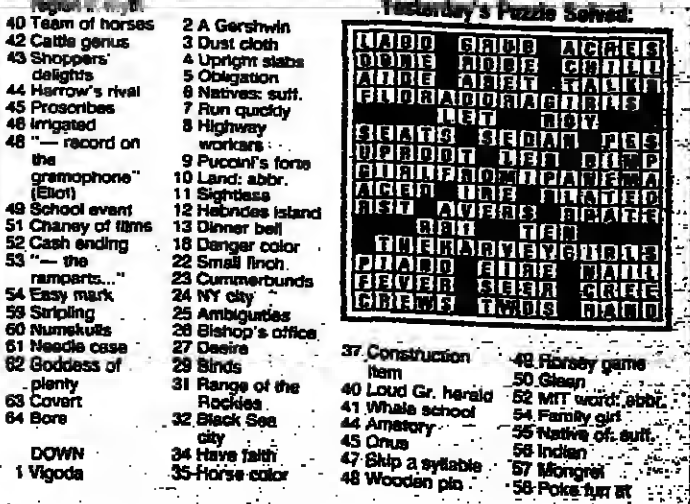
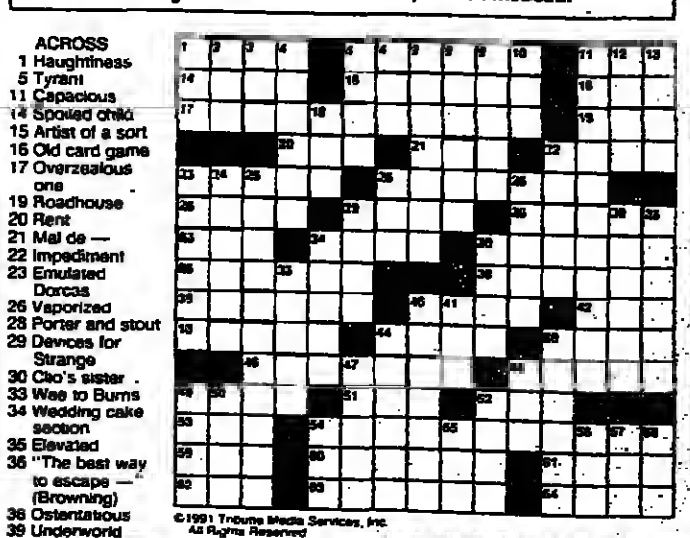
A.—Neither major suit is the sort you want to introduce voluntarily, but what are the options? To suppress two four-card majors in favor of bidding one no trump risks losing game in a major, and raising partner's minor with only three-card support should be resorted to only under great duress. Bid one heart.

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ ♠KJ106 ♠94 ♠AJ1076

Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?

A.—You have superb support for partner's suit, even if one club is only a convenience bid on a three-card suit. But responder should never suppress a good four-card major if it can be shown at the one-level. Bid one heart.

THE Daily Crossword by Wilson McBeath



Financial Markets

in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE	TOKYO CLGSE
U.S. Dollar	1.6794	1.6897
Deutsche Mark	1.7295	1.7467
Swiss Franc	1.5270	1.5157
French Franc	5.2755	5.2440
Japanese Yen	157.25	156.87
European Currency Unit	1.1690	1.1750

USD Per STD

European Opening at 8.00 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.87	6.00	6.25	6.62
Sterling Pound	11.06	11.00	10.81	10.62
Deutsche Mark	6.75	7.06	7.25	7.31
Swiss Franc	7.68	7.81	7.97	7.62
French Franc	9.12	9.24	9.31	9.31
Japanese Yen	7.28	7.28	7.06	7.00
European Currency Unit	9.75	9.87	10.04	10.00

Interbank bid rates for amount exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent

Precious Metals			Date: 23/7/91		
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	268.00	7.00	Silver	4.29	1.10

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 24/7/91

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	1.6800	1.6800
Sterling Pound	1.1581	1.1639
Deutsche Mark	1.3922	1.3922
Swiss Franc	1.517	1.517
French Franc	1.155	1.161
Japanese Yen	1.5002	1.5027
Dutch Guilder	1.3582	1.3599
Swedish Krona	1.1084	1.1089
Italian Lira	1.0527	1.0530
Belgian Franc	1.01894	1.01903

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7820	1.7930
Lebanese Lira	1.0770	1.0790
Saudi Riyal	1.1826	1.1835
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.1853	1.1864
Qatari Riyal	1.1900	1.2025
Egyptian Pound	1.7450	1.7550
Omani Riyal	1.1853	1.1864
UAE Dirham	1.3400	1.3600
Greek Drachma	1.4200	1.4400

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	22/7/91	Close	23/7/91	Close
All-Share	111.40		111.35	
Banking Sector	106.59		106.16	
Insurance Sector	119.34		119.43	
Industry Sector	115.98		116.40	
Services Sector	128.72		128.32	

December 31, 1990 = 100

India eases restriction on foreign investment

NEW DELHI (AP) — Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's month-old government pushed ahead with promises to open up the economy Wednesday by easing some restrictions on foreign investment.

In outlining its programme to parliament, the government also said it would remove bureaucratic obstacles which have hampered industrial growth.

The government is committed to building a "modern, democratic, socialist and forward-looking India. Such a society can be built if India grows as part of the world economy and not in isolation," said the policy statement delivered by Minister of Industries P.J. Kurian.

United News of India, releasing details of the plan, described the programme as a "radical liberalisation" of industrial policy. Since attaining independence from Britain in 1947, India's protectionist policies have shielded local industries from foreign competition and curtailed foreign investment.

Under the programme, foreign equity holdings of up to 51 per cent will be allowed for trading companies engaged primarily in export activities, United News said. The previous limit was 40 per cent.

The policy will apply to 34 types of industries that need large investment and advanced technology. These include industrial and agricultural machinery, fertilisers, hotels, cement, automobile tyres, metallurgy and industrial chemicals, the statement said.

Automatic permission would be given for foreign technology agreements in high-priority industries for a sum of up to 10 million rupees (\$387,000), United News said.

Despite a vast potential market of 844 million people, foreign investment in India has been held to less than \$200 million a year because of red tape and limits of taking profits out of the country.

The government was to present its budget later Wednesday. Although the fiscal year started April 1, the national budget has been delayed by political upheavals caused by early elections and the May 21 assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi during the election campaign.

Mr. Rao, a former foreign minister who succeeded Mr. Gandhi as leader of the Congress Party, took office as prime minister June 21.

One of his first acts was to devalue the rupee by nearly 20 per cent.

Foreign Economic Affairs, \$200 million will be provided by a group of Japanese commercial banks in loans underwritten by the trade ministry, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Soviet Union currently has about \$500 million in outstanding trade debts with Japan, government and industry officials say.

Japan's exports to the Soviet Union totalled \$897 million in the first five months of this year, down 21.0 per cent from the same period last year, according to the Japan Association for Trade with the Soviet Union and Central Eastern Europe, a non-profit organisation specialising in study of trade with communist countries.

The association said Japan's imports from the Soviet Union totalled \$1.42 billion during the five-month period, up 20.8 per cent from a year earlier.

"Unless there is a dramatic improvement in Soviet foreign reserves, the declining trend in Japan's exports to the Soviet Union will continue," said Itaru Otowa, an association researcher.

Leaders from Japan and six other major industrialised countries who met Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in London last week agreed to support economic reforms in the Soviet Union.

The aid offered by the trade ministry will help shore up trade accounts that are going unpaid because of the Soviets' lack of foreign exchange.

Of the \$350 million to be extended to the Soviet Bank of

Japan to lend \$350m to Soviets for refinancing

TOKYO (AP) — Japan, which conditions massive aid to the Soviet Union on the resolution of a territorial dispute, plans nonetheless to lend \$350 million to Moscow to refinance its trade debts to Japanese companies.

A ministry of International Trade and Industry official said Wednesday the terms of the loan will be discussed later by representatives from the two sides, including Japanese creditors such as commercial banks and trading companies.

Since the London summit, the government has been working on measures that would allow Japan to provide some support to efforts to restructure the Soviet economy, despite its own position that a longstanding territorial dispute must be resolved before it provides substantial aid.

"We have confirmed a joint resolve to step up assistance to the Soviet Union to pursue perestroika," Foreign Ministry spokesman Taizo Watanabe said Tuesday.

Mr. Watanabe said such aid would be concentrated mainly in technological cooperation and humanitarian aid.

The aid offered by the trade ministry will help shore up trade accounts that are going unpaid because of the Soviets' lack of foreign exchange.

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Japan to lend \$350m to Soviets for refinancing

TOKYO — Stocks closed sharply higher in thin trade, helped by short-term interest rates coming down for two successive days. The Nikkei rose 538.49 points, or 2.37 per cent, to close at the day's high of 23,297.47.

SYDNEY — Solid domestic buying dragged shares off early lows after an overnight Wall Street slump sparked some profit taking. The All Ordinaries Index closed up two at 1,572.6.

HONG KONG — Shares soared on news of a U.S. senate vote that appeared to pave the way for unconditional renewal of China's MFN trade status. The Hang Seng Index jumped 18.95 points to a record high finish of 4,028.77.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed mostly lower in moderate trading but the key Straits Times Index rose 2.28 points to 1,501.33, helped by gains in some index stocks.

BOMBAY — India's raising of the equity limit from 40 to 51 per cent for foreign operators in joint ventures sent the market soaring. The BSE Index closed 40.35 points up at 1,459.66.

Soviets apply for IMF entry; U.S. wary

WASHINGTON (R) — The Soviet Union has surprised U.S. leaders, moving to end decades of self-imposed economic isolation by applying for full membership of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

The move immediately ran into opposition from the United States. It said that lengthy discussions on membership were not the best way for Moscow to pursue much-needed economic reforms.

The application for full IMF membership took both the fund and the United States by surprise, monetary sources said.

Instead of full membership, the United States has proposed that the Soviet Union become a special associate of the IMF and the World Bank. That would allow Moscow to draw on the two organisations' expertise in reforming its economy without giving it access to their money.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev lodged the application for IMF and World Bank membership in a letter to the heads of the two United Nations affiliates.

The application follows Mr. Gorbachev's historic meeting in London last week with President George Bush and leaders of other rich industrial nations. They signalled their willingness to help him shift his country from communism to capitalism.

Faced with a rapidly crumbling economy, Mr. Gorbachev has had little choice but to turn for help to the West and to the lending institutions Moscow once derided as capitalist tools.

By applying to join the fund and the bank, Mr. Gorbachev hopes to gain access to billions of dollars in loans to help him put his country's battered economy back into shape.

But Washington remains wary about giving large-scale aid to the Soviet Union in the absence of economic reforms there in the belief the money would only end up being wasted.

Mr. Bush lined up the support of America's rich industrial allies for that proposal at their economic summit last week, even though some European countries indicated that they wanted to proceed more quickly in helping Moscow.

The United States argues that membership negotiations could take two years or more and could distract Moscow from the more important business of reforming its economy.

"The United States believes that full membership negotiation between the Soviet Union and the IMF-World Bank is not the most effective way for proceeding with Soviet economic reform," a Treasury Department spokesman said.

The governor said the 77.4 per cent owner of BCCI, Abu Dhabi

rule Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, cooperated with regulators to try to clean up BCCI, but the fraud ran too deep.

He said the results of an investigation handed to the Bank of England in June disclosed "evidence of massive and widespread fraud going back a number of years and involving not only past management but members of the existing and continuing management team. Board members were involved and representatives of the main shareholders."

It was then the Bank of England decided BCCI was finished.

"We felt we could not correct the level of fraud, the lack of professional conduct, competence and probity," he said.

"Therefore we felt the institution should not go on."

China hits U.S. Senate vote

BEIJING (R) — China's Foreign Ministry sharply criticised Wednesday a U.S. Senate vote attaching conditions to a favourable trade status worth billions of dollars a year.

"This is interference in China's internal affairs. China cannot accept this," said a ministry spokesman quoted on television news.

The Senate Tuesday passed a bill attaching conditions on human rights, trade, missile exports and other issues to China's most favourable nation (MFN) status, but the 55-44 vote was far short of the margin needed to override a

Kuwait to start loading oil for export this week

DUBAI (Agencies) — Kuwait will start loading crude oil for export this week, its first since Iraq invaded the emirate last Aug. 2, oil and shipping sources in the Gulf said Wednesday.

They said Kuwait had chartered two tankers in London to load oil from its Ahmadi terminal.

The 260,000-tonne tanker Thorness and the 227,000-tonne Connecticut were on their way to Europe or the southern United States.

Firefighters in Kuwait have been battling to extinguish hundreds of oil wells set ablaze in the Gulf war. The emirate has managed to pump 140,000 barrels a day (bpd) to meet domestic demand.

Before the invasion, it was pumping two million bpd.

Oil industry sources in the Gulf said the emirate might be having problems holding crude it was producing because storage tanks were damaged during the Iraqi invasion.

They also said Kuwait might have difficulty loading the crude at the Sea Island terminal, its main export outlet, was still out of action due to bomb damage.

An oil industry executive in the emirate said the north pier at the Ahmadi terminal had been put into operation during the last couple of months, mainly to unload petroleum products being imported by Kuwait.

But the north pier stood in shallow water and very large crude carriers could be only partially loaded, the industry sources said. It meant that such vessels would have to be moored offshore to take on oil.

A senior official at Kuwait Petroleum Corporation declined to comment when asked when Kuwait would resume exports: "I hope we start exports soon, but I do not want to comment," he said.

Mergers to help troubled banks

The government plans to reorganise Kuwait's troubled banking system next month, the head of the central bank, Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah, said in an interview published Wednesday.

He also told the Arabic daily Al Watan that gold taken by Iraq from Kuwait's central bank is now in Iraq's central bank and that the United Nations says it will be returned within the next two weeks.

The gold is valued at between \$600 million and \$700 million.

U.N. officials are supervising the repatriation of goods taken during Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

In a wide-ranging interview, Sheikh Salem told the newspaper that several banks and investment companies would be merged to produce four banks, what he described as "the ideal number for the present stage of the Kuwait economy."

Rate set for inter-bank settlement

The Central Bank of Kuwait has fixed July 25 as the date for settlement of dinar interbank foreign exchange transaction.

A bank statement said movement of funds for settlement purposes were exempt from current restrictions on withdrawals and transfers imposed shortly after the liberation of the emirate.

The bank started dinar interbank settlement of money market transactions earlier this month.

The Kuwaiti government has limited withdrawals to 4,000 dinars (\$13,500) a month from each account to fight a cashflow problem caused by seven months of Iraqi occupation.

But the central bank has promised to scrap the limit by Aug. 3.

Bank governor says 'criminal' BCCI beyond rescue in Britain

LONDON (R) — The governor of the Bank of England has said the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) was so deeply immersed in fraud that rescue or recovery, in Britain at least, was out of the question.

Robin Leigh-Pemberton, facing a political storm over his decision to shut down BCCI here on July 5, said Tuesday the bank was criminal and had been a known conduit of funds for Middle Eastern guerrillas.

"The culture of the bank is criminal," Mr. Leigh-Pemberton told the parliamentary Treasury Committee, which launched an investigation into the shut down of the major private bank.

The governor said the 77.4 per cent owner of BCCI, Abu Dhabi

rule Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, cooperated with regulators to try to clean up BCCI, but the fraud ran too deep.

He said the results of an investigation handed to the Bank of England in June disclosed "evidence of massive and widespread fraud going back a number of years and involving not only past management but members of the existing and continuing management team. Board members were involved and representatives of the main shareholders."

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Mr. Leigh-Pemberton said he believed that in Britain at least, BCCI was beyond rescue: "I don't think as regulators that we would contemplate a neo-BCCI."

The governor helped defuse a crisis swirling around Prime Minister John Major over the closure of BCCI, saying he had told Mr. Major, then chancellor of the exchequer (finance minister), in only "general terms" of problems at BCCI in 1990 and had not disclosed to him reports of widespread fraud.

Mr. Major earlier faced a stinging attack from opposition Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock who said Mr. Major must have known of "serious banking irregularities" at BCCI when he was chancellor but had done nothing. He accused Mr. Major of negligence.

"We note that more and more congressmen are regarding the general situation of Sino-U.S. relations as a priority and advocate unconditional extension of MFN," the spokesman said.

Earlier, China's chief trade spokesman expressed relief that the Senate vote appeared to pave the way for unconditional renewal of MFN.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following were the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.6855/65	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1525/30	Canadian dollar
	1.7475/85	Deutsche marks
	1.9685/95	Dutch guilders
	1.5180/85	Swiss francs
	35.92/96	Belgian francs
	5.9350/9400	French francs
	1302/1303	Italian lire
	137.45/55	Japanese yen
	6.3260/3310	Swedish crowns
	6.7540/90	Norwegian crowns
	6.7540/90	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	366.90/367.40	U.S. dollars

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CONCORD

LAMBADA

Show: 3:30, 6:45 p.m.

KARATE WARRIOR

Show: 5:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 675571

NIJOM

To Be Opened Soon

Nabil Mashini Theatre

Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

Julia Roberts in

MYSTIC PIZZA

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 625155

RAINBOW

TOM SELLECK — IN

RUNAWAY

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New union treaty reported to be ready for signing by Soviet republics

MOSCOW (Agencies) — President Mikhail Gorbachev said Wednesday a final draft of the new union treaty is complete and ready for signing. TASS reported, although some wording apparently still needs to be worked out.

Armenia, which earlier rejected participation in the treaty, joined the leaders of nine other republics in talks Tuesday on completing the document, news agencies reported.

The union treaty is Mr. Gorbachev's centerpiece for preserving the country as a federation. It spells out the relationship between the Kremlin and the republics, including the sharing of power, foreign policy, defence and revenue sharing.

"In principle, the treaty is ready for signing," said Igor Malashenko, a Gorbachev spokesman. He said only the final wording of a clause on taxes needed some last-minute work.

The treaty still must be approved by the republics' parliaments. The Ukraine, for example, has postponed debate on it for at least two months.

The independent news agency Interfax quoted Mr. Gorbachev as saying the toughest issues concerning taxes and the division of powers between the centre and

the republics had been worked out at a meeting at a country house outside Moscow.

The Soviet News Agency (TASS) reported that Mr. Gorbachev emerged from the meeting at 1:30 a.m. Wednesday and said, "the work on a new union treaty has been completed."

Mr. Gorbachev and the republic leaders, including Russian Republic President Boris Yeltsin, finally agreed on a two-tier system of taxation with the centre and republics separately responsible for gathering revenue, Interfax said.

Participation by Armenia's leader, Levon Ter-Petrosyan, was warmly welcomed by Mr. Gorbachev and Anatoly Lukyanov, the chairman of the National Supreme Soviet legislature.

"It is a good omen," Interfax quoted Mr. Gorbachev as saying. "I feel Armenia's people wish to cooperate with all peoples of the Soviet Union."

Prior to Tuesday's meeting, Armenia had sided with the Baltic republics of Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia as well as Georgia and Moldavia in declaring they would not sign the document.

Although Armenia took part in the talks, it was not clear if it was

ready to sign the document. "The question is open," Mr. Malashenko said.

The talks were attended by several of Mr. Gorbachev's top advisers, including Mr. Lukyanov, Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh, Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov and Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shcherbakov.

Mr. Gorbachev's new union treaty is designed to preserve the country as a federation.

At an earlier meeting on April 23, Mr. Gorbachev signed an accord with the leaders of the nine republics — the Russian Federation, the Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kirgizia, Turkmenia, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Byelorussia and Tadzhikistan — to sign the union treaty. In turn, Mr. Gorbachev would turn over most of the nation's industrial and natural resources.

TASS did not say when the document would be published, although Mr. Gorbachev has said he would like the Supreme Soviet to act on it soon.

Meanwhile the Azerbaijan News Agency, Turan, claimed Tuesday Armenians launched an armed attack on the neighbouring Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan this week, killing two shepherds

and stealing 13,500 sheep.

An Armenian Interior Ministry spokesman said there had been an attack on Azerbaijan but he could not confirm the details. He said it followed many attacks by Azeris against Armenia.

The two Transcaucasian republics, on the Soviet Union's southern fringe, have been fighting for the past three years over the mountainous enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The enclave, claimed by both republics, is located in and administered by Azerbaijan, but — like many of the surrounding villages — it is populated mostly by Armenians.

Armenia has accused Azerbaijani police commandos and Soviet troops of forcibly deporting Armenians. But Azerbaijan says it is ridding its territory of illegal armed groups.

Turan said the attack by up to 400 Armenians Sunday night was on mountain pastures near the village of Ninkend, west of Nagorno-Karabakh.

It added that the mutilated bodies of the shepherds were later found close to the Armenian border.

Hundreds of people have died in and around Nagorno-Karabakh since fighting erupted in 1988.

Brunei plans defence links with U.S.

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Brunei plans to accept several visits from U.S. warships each year but will not allow the kingdom to be used as a U.S. military base. Foreign Minister Prince Mohammad Bolkiah has said.

The kingdom may also establish diplomatic ties with the Soviet Union and China as early as September this year.

Brunei plans to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Washington to allow several U.S. warships to visit the oil-rich kingdom each year and for Brunei and U.S. troops to train together, Prince Mohammad told Reuters Tuesday night.

Brunei had no intention of allowing the U.S. fleet to use it as a military base, as in the Philippines, or of following Singapore's lead in granting the use of military facilities to help to maintain a U.S. presence in the region, he said.

"It is not a defence agreement as such but a MOU to enable training. The question of military cooperation is really within the realm of training facilities which are available," he said.

Key Philippine senator to vote against bases pact

MANILA (AP) — President Corazon Aquino was asked Wednesday to renegotiate an agreement under which the United States would give up Clark Air Base next year but keep a naval base for 10 more years.

Mrs. Aquino said she would discuss the issue with Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus Thursday, after he returns from the Association of South East Asian Nations meeting in Malaysia.

Last week, U.S. and Philippine negotiators announced they had reached an agreement under which Washington would return Clark next year but keep the Subic Bay Naval Base for another 10 years in return for \$203 million a year.

The agreement must be ratified by two-thirds of the 23-member Senate, and only seven senators so far have expressed support for the pact.

Both bases were heavily damaged during last month's eruptions of the Mount Pinatubo volcano. The agreement followed 14 months of difficult negotiations, and the lease on the bases expires on Sept. 16.

Calls for renegotiating the agreement have come from Congress, the media and the country's largest labour federation, the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines.

In a statement Wednesday, the federation said the agreement should be renegotiated to provide

better compensation terms for the government and for thousands of workers who will lose their jobs when Clark closes in 1992.

Sen. Ernesto Maceda, chairman of the Senate Defence Committee, said Wednesday he would vote against the agreement because the \$203 million was insufficient.

Talks began on a new extension in May 1990 but dragged on because Mr. Manglapus had been haggling for more money. The Philippines demanded \$825 million a year for a seven-year agreement but Washington offered \$360 million for a 10-12 year stay at both Clark and Subic.

It was unclear how soon the Americans would have to leave if no agreement were ratified by September.

Mrs. Aquino said the agreement was the best the country could expect after the eruptions, but so far has not launched a major lobbying effort for the agreement.

In a separate development, the Philippine supreme court has upheld the conviction of 16 soldiers for the assassination of Mrs. Aquino's husband, Benigno.

The ruling, handed down Tuesday, affirmed a trial court's decision last September sentencing the late Air Force General Luther Custodio and 15 other military men to life imprisonment.

COLUMN

Director calls for halt to 'massacre' of horses

ROME (AP) — Italian film director Franco Zeffirelli has called for a halt to the Palio di Siena, a horserace that dates back to medieval times. The people of Siena, however, fiercely defend the race as part of their cultural and historical legacy. The race draws more than 50,000 spectators every year. "My purpose is to save these poor horses useless suffering," Zeffirelli said at a news conference organised in part by the Italian animal rights group Animal Amnesty. The race "is by now an appointment with death" for the horses, said Zeffirelli. Zeffirelli decided to join in the battle against the Palio after visiting Siena while filming a promotional documentary in his home region of Tuscany last June. The Palio, held every July 2 and Aug. 16, is known for its rough style and the intense rivalry among the 10 contrade, or neighbourhoods, which sponsor the runners. In the last 21 races, 22 horses have been destroyed after sustaining injuries during the competition. Jockeys riding bareback use whips and fists to get ahead in a free-for-all run along the perimeter Siena's scalloped central square.

'Brideshead' stately home to sell art treasures

LONDON (R) — The owners of Castle Howard, the stately home featured in the British television series Brideshead Revisited, will sell 1,800 items of art to finance restoration costs, auctioneers Sotheby's said Tuesday. Simon Howard, who runs the estate in Yorkshire, northeast England, said it was the first time the Howard family had been forced to sell part of their heritage to meet the huge cost of maintaining the 18th century mansion. "Disposal of items that have been in your family for many years is always a difficult situation," but there's a future to think about, and we have to ensure that Castle Howard goes into the next century as complete as possible," he said. The three-day sale in November will include old master paintings, antiques, jewellery, silver, furniture and wine. It was expected to raise £800,000 (\$1.3 million) towards the cost of restoring part of the building which was damaged by a fire in 1940.

U.K. royal family's image tarnished, poll shows

LONDON (R) — More than half of Queen Elizabeth's subjects believe her family fails to set a good example of family life, according to poll results published Wednesday. The Gallup poll published in the Daily Telegraph showed that 65 per cent of those questioned thought the royal family faced significant difficulties over its place in society. Fifty one per cent disagreed with the statement that "the royal family provides a good example of family life." But the public still supports the monarchy, with 75 per cent saying Britain still needs its royals.

3 Serbian cities lose Tito's name

BELGRADE (R) — Three Serbian cities dropped mention of Josip Broz Tito from their names Tuesday in a move further downgrading Yugoslavia's late Communist ruler. Titovo Uziye, Titovo Mitrovica and Titovo Vrbas dropped his name under a new local government law stripping all cities in the republic of any reference to Tito. Uziye, Mitrovica and Vrbas took Tito's name at the height of his personality cult during his 35-year rule which ended only on his death in 1980. Tito is now blamed for many of Yugoslavia's current political and economic problems and some Serbs criticise him for redrawing Yugoslavia's internal borders after World War II.

WRENS caught in bed with sailors on U.K. warship

LONDON (R) — A secret inquiry showed 11 male sailors were in bed with WRENS (female sailors) on the shipwoman doctor was attacked aboard Britain's top warship, the Daily Express said. The woman came to light after service chiefs offered an amnesty to the crew. They revealed where they were on the night of the assault on the aircraft carrier Invincible. Naval rules forbid sexual relationships among crew.

U.K. announces major military cuts

LONDON (R) — Britain has sounded the "last post" for some of its most historic regiments doomed under military cuts announced by Defence Secretary Tom King.

The infantry will be cut from 55 battalions to 38 by the mid-1990s and the names of many famous regiments will vanish from the army's order of battle as a result.

In a wide-ranging reorganisation of the British army announced in parliament Tuesday, Mr. King said many infantry regiments would either merge with others or face severe reductions in manpower.

The Royal Scots, the army's oldest regiment, will merge with the King's Own Scottish Borderers.

Several English county regiments, which inspire intense local loyalties and have battle honours going back more than 300 years, will also be amalgamated.

Army chiefs said the sensitive topic of deciding new names would be left to the regiments.

The army says its regimental system is an ideal way of focusing the loyalty of fighting men. Family ties to regiments often go back many generations.

General Sir John Chapple, the

chief of the general staff, said he had written to the colonels of the affected regiments to explain the changes.

Queen Elizabeth, her son Prince Charles and other members of the royal family have taken the ceremonial title of colonel of the regiment for many units.

"It has not exactly been a happy day," Gen. Chapple told a news conference.

Mr. King told the House of Commons his restructuring plans had required "painful choices and difficult decisions."

Under the reorganisation, the five infantry battalions of the Nepal-based Gurkha regiment will be reduced to two.

The Ulster Defence Regiment, which shoulders security duties in Northern Ireland where the Irish Republican Army is fighting to end British rule, is to be merged with the Royal Irish Rangers and renamed the Royal Irish Regiment.

The cuts were fiercely resisted in the army and the weeks before Tuesday's announcement saw intensive behind-the-scenes lobbying by officers on behalf of their regiments.

Some famous regiments, including the Green Howards, the Green Jackets and the Black Watch, will escape the axe.

And the continued existence of the ancient regiments will allow some of their equally historic customs to live on.

The survival of the Scots Guards means the St. Andrews Day ceremony of a bagpipied tribute to the haggis, a Scottish delicacy made of offal, will live on, and the continued existence of the Royal Welch Fusiliers will safeguard the annual eating of the leek by its members.

Artillery and armoured units will also be cut. The number of armoured and armoured reconnaissance regiments will fall from 19 to 11 under the cuts, which will reduce the size of the British army by 40,000 to 116,000.

In Germany, the commander of the British Army of the Rhine said the force based in Germany would be reduced by more than a half.

General Sir Peter Inge said in a statement that a British military force of 23,000 men and women will remain in Germany, down from the 55,000 army and 12,000 Royal Air Force personnel stationed there at present.

U.N. aid convoy heads for Cambodian capital

POIPET, Cambodia (R) — Past discarded blockhouses and barbed wire, the United Nations Wednesday sent its first road convoy of relief supplies from Thailand to Cambodia's capital Phnom Penh in more than 15 years.

Unless new funds are approved, the more than seven tonnes of essential malaria, tuberculosis and leprosy medicine could be the last such shipment to the impoverished country, U.N. officials said.

"We can't continue if there is no money. I hope this won't be the last shipment," said U.N. official Ken Innoue.

"The problem is that there are not many new pledges for Cambodia."

Aid donors were closely watching Cambodian peace talks before committing funds, he said. U.N. officials said a political settlement to the country's 12-year-old civil war would make more money available.

Former Cambodian monarch and guerrilla leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen agreed Monday to set up a commission to seek foreign aid. Phnom Penh's official news agency reported.

A text of its report on a meeting between the two in North Korea was seen in Bangkok Wednesday.

The United Nations began sending medicine by air and sea to Cambodia last year.

The land convoy was made possible by a ceasefire agreed by the four Cambodian factions at peace talks in Thailand last month, said Dennis McNamara, a special U.N. representative for Cambodia.

He said it was the first by the United Nations from the Thailand since 1975, when the Khmer Rouge began its brutal four-year rule in Cambodia which cost more than a million lives.

He spoke before thousands of pro-democracy militants who have besieged his house since Monday night, demanding he refuse Mr. Mobutu's compromise.

Opposition parties said what appeared to be a major concession from Mr. Mobutu was a ploy to divide them and cling to the dictatorial and brutal power he has wielded in this Central African nation for 26 years.

Mr. Mobutu made the offer Monday, saying he hoped it would ease tensions in the country, which has been paralysed by strikes and protests because Mr. Mobutu has stalled on a promise to instal multiparty democracy by May 1991.

Mr. Mobutu took power in late 1965 and made Zaire a one-party state. Last April, under pressure from protesters and Western donors, he agreed to allow opposition parties to operate freely in the former Belgian Congo.

But security forces regularly break up opposition meetings and clash with protesters. It is not known how many people have been killed in confrontations.

India threatens action against Pakistan over help to militants

NEW DELHI (R) — India has said it would retaliate against Pakistan if Islamabad continued to support armed rebels in the troubled Indian states of Punjab and Kashmir.

Defence Minister Sharad Pawar, quoted by the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency, said Pakistan was fomenting insurgency in the two border states.

"We can teach a lesson to the enemy if it indulges in mischief," Mr. Pawar told journalists in Pune in southwestern Maharashtra state.

Pakistan denies India's charges that it arms militants in Punjab and Kashmir fighting against Indian rule.

PTI said Mr. Pawar was responding to a statement by Pakistani army chief Mirza Aslam Beg warning that war was looming in the region and expressing fear India might attack Pakistan over Kashmir.

"Events are fast changing in the region and shadows of war have started appearing," Pakistan's official APP news agency quoted Gen. Beg as saying Sunday.

Mr. Pawar said India has no desire to start an armed conflict with its neighbours but it was Pakistan which was fomenting trouble.

U.S. Senate approves conditions on China trade, but veto looms

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Senate has approved a bill attaching conditions to China's favourable trade status with the United States.

However, the 55-44 vote was well short of the two-thirds needed to override a certain presidential veto.

The bill would require President George Bush to certify that China has met a series of conditions on human rights, trade, missile exports and other issues before he could renew most-favoured-nation (MFN) trade status next year.

Passage of the bill and House approval of a similar measure this month laid bare a deep split on China policy between Congress and Bush, a former U.S. envoy to Peking.

The House of Representatives passed its version of a bill setting conditions on MFN renewal in 1992 by a majority in excess of the two-thirds needed to override a veto, but the Senate vote fell short. Both the House and Senate must act to override.

Senate Democratic leader George Mitchell of Maine, the bill's prime sponsor, said failure to win enough Senate votes was due to the loyalty of most Republicans to Bush and Democratic

defections due to business interests.

Many farm state senators feared the bill would cause China to stop buying U.S. grain.

Both bills would allow MFN to remain in effect for the next 12 months, as proposed by Bush.

But MFN renewal in 1992 would depend on China's meeting conditions that, in addition to those on human rights, include ceasing military aid to Cambodia's Khmer Rouge guerrillas, adhering to international standards to curb weapons proliferation and giving American exporters fair access to Chinese markets.

Senators that supported attaching conditions to China's MFN said China had failed to improve its human rights practices since the bloody 1989 crackdown against pro-democracy demonstrators in Peking's Tiananmen Square.

They charged that unfair trade practices and manipulation had led to a \$10 billion U.S.-Chinese trade imbalance and criticised reported Chinese plans to sell missiles in volatile regions of the world.

Opponents of the bill said it would be tantamount to cutting off MFN, harming reformers in

China and hardening the attitude of the nation's ageing leaders.

MFN cutoff would cost America \$5 billion in exports to China and put 100,000 Americans out of work as other nations rushed in to fill the void in China trade, opponents said.

China was first granted MFN status in 1980. It has been renewed each year since. More than 100 countries enjoy MFN status, under which they receive the lowest U.S. tariffs.

China's trade spokesman welcomed Wednesday a U.S. Senate vote that appeared to pave the way for unconditional renewal of trading privileges worth billions of dollars a year.

"If the U.S. extends MFN status unconditionally, it will be conducive to bilateral economic and trade relations," Ye Rugen, spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, told a news conference.

Mr. Ye seemed confident China could rely on U.S. President George Bush's continued support for unconditional renewal of the trade status, which gives China's booming exports to the United States the lowest possible tariffs.

"We have time and again welcomed President George Bush's wise policy," he said.

ASEAN ministers turn down proposal for security forum

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Six South East Asian Nations did not endorse proposals by Japan and Canada to hold annual meetings on security issues among the six countries and their major trading partners, officials said Wednesday.

The Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) also decided Wednesday to send Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus to Burma to discuss violations of human rights there, officials said. They did not say when he would go.

Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and Canadian Secretary of State for External

Affairs Barbara McDougall proposed that the security discussions take place around the time of the annual meeting of the Association of South East Asian Nations.

While U.S. Secretary of State James Baker called the suggestion "something I think we ought to look at," some ASEAN delegates were not enthusiastic.

"They want an official group to be formed. That's something that ASEAN has not yet decided to accept," Mr. Manglapus said.

Officials at the conference said the Japanese proposal may be taken up by the ASEAN summit in Singapore next Jan. 27-28.

Man reportedly confesses to Milwaukee slayings

MILWAUKEE (AP) — A paroled child molester whose reeking, fly-infested apartment was littered with skulls, headless torsos and other body parts confessed to killing 11 people and eating some of them, it was reported Wednesday.

Neighbours said an overpowering stench emanated from Jeffrey L. Dahmer's apartment for months and that they recently heard scuffling, a buzz saw and screams.

Aaron Whitehead, who lives one floor down, said he was often awakened by loud pounding and scuffling.

"One night, I heard what sounded like a kid up there," Mr. Whitehead said. "He was crying like his mother had just walloped him. Then I heard a big falling sound...like he was being hurt."

Mr. Dahmer, 31, a former chocolate factory worker, was arrested Monday and booked on suspicion of homicide after a man in handcuffs flagged down police, saying he had been attacked by a man with a knife.

The handcuffed man had earlier escaped from Mr. Dahmer's apartment.

The man led police to Mr. Dahmer's apartment, where they found skulls in a file cabinet and a

closet and three headless torsos in a vat in Mr. Dahmer's bedroom. Police said they found three heads in a refrigerator, boxes filled with body parts and a dresser stuffed with photos and drawings of mutilated bodies.

The Milwaukee Sentinel newspaper, citing a source it did not identify, said Mr. Dahmer confessed to 11 killings and to cannibalism. The paper, citing the same source, said Mr. Dahmer may have killed up to 18 people, mostly men, over the past two years.

Larry Marion, who managed the apartment when Mr. Dahmer moved in two years ago, said the smell was especially bad last spring. He said Mr. Dahmer claimed that his refrigerator had broken, causing meat to spoil.

"We've been smelling odors for weeks, but we thought it was a dead animal or something like that," said neighbour Ella Vickers. "We had no idea it was humans."

"I asked my wife, 'what is he building in there?'" said Vernell Bass, who lives across from Mr. Dahmer.

Police said they received no reports of strange noises or smells.